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Gulf foes accept Soviet mediation

ATHENS, Jan 12. (Agencies): Both Iran and Iraq announced yesterday that they had accepted a mediation offer from the Soviet Union to help establish a lasting peace in the Gulf.

Tehran Radio, in a dispatch monitored in Athens, said Iran accepted a proposal by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers should meet in his presence in Moscow.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency, in a dispatch from Baghdad, quoted Iraqi officials as saying Baghdad also accepted the Soviet proposal. No date for a meeting of the three foreign ministers was immediately announced.

Iran and Iraq have held indirect discussions under United Nations auspices for more than one year, but officials of the two sides have not met face to face since the August 1988 ceasefire that ended eight years of hostilities in the Gulf war.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Vaezi told Tehran Radio on his return to Iran from Moscow yesterday that he met Shevardnadze in the Soviet capital and gave him a positive response.

He said Shevardnadze made the proposal in a message to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, and he (Vaezi) flew to Moscow with Velayati's reply. Vaezi did not say when Shevardnadze made the mediation proposal.

Vaezi said the Iranian response was that it would accept any proposal that offered a clear means toward the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 598.

The resolution, which Iran accepted in July 1988, led to the ceasefire between the two Gulf belligerents after eight years of war.

It also called for talks between the two sides toward establishing a lasting peace in the region, but the mediation efforts of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar founders because of mutual suspicion on the two sides.

Iran insisted that Iraqi troops should pull out of some 800 square miles (2000 sq km) of Iranian territory near the central sector border town of Naft Shahr, which the Iraqis occupied just before the ceasefire. Baghdad has ignored the demand.

Iraq, for its part, has demanded the right to begin clearing the disputed Shatt Al Arab estuary that forms the ceasefire line between the two sides in the south, even while the peace talks are in progress, but Tehran has rejected the demand.

The Shatt is clogged with scores of vessels, big and small, trapped there since the outbreak of the war in September 1980 and hindering an approach to the Iraqi port of Basra from the Gulf.

In Baghdad, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said a meeting in Moscow "should address the essential issues in a comprehensive manner," to achieve the desired results.

Mena quoted the Iraqi spokesman as saying Shevardnadze made the proposal last year and Iraq accepted in August, but that the Iranian side had been "dilly dallying to avoid direct negotiations."

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind.
State of sea: Slight to moderate
High water: 2.30 am, 3.00 pm
Low water: 8.00 am, 7.30 pm
Sunrise: 6.44 am
Sunset: 5.09 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 14°C 57°F
Abu Dhabi: 13°C 55°F
Falkirk: 14°C 57°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 13°C 47°F
Abu Dhabi: 5°C 41°F
Falkirk: 5°C 41°F

Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 14°C 57°F
Abu Dhabi: 13°C 55°F
Falkirk: 13°C 55°F

Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 21 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 56 per cent
Falkirk: 48 per cent



ARAB TIMES



SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1990/JAMADIUL THANI 17, 1410 AH



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20 PAGES 150 FILS

Kuwait trying to find a formula to avoid a third crisis: Crown Prince

Parliamentary door not closed

Press censorship may be lifted soon

CAIRO, Jan 12. (Agencies): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has said Kuwait may soon lift media censorship imposed over three years ago but hinted a return of its dissolved parliament might be a long way off.

"A study is being conducted now on lifting press censorship. You will hear an answer within the next few days," Sheikh Saad told a news conference in Cairo yesterday.

HH the Amir of Kuwait dissolved the country's National Assembly,

suspended parts of the constitution and gave the government new media censorship powers in July 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war.

Asked about a possible restoration of parliamentary life following democratic changes in Eastern Bloc countries, the Crown Prince cited a paragraph in the Amir's decree dissolving the house which said the action was temporary.

"The decree stated that the measure did not mean an end to the parliamentary life in the country. This was a commitment on the part of the Amir," the Crown Prince said.

Sheikh Saad dissolved the country's National Assembly,

still believe in the usefulness of public participation and their role in control and legislation," he said at the end of a four-day visit to Egypt.

"On the basis of this concept, we will work towards finding a formula that prevents Kuwait from being exposed to a third crisis," he added.

He was referring to 1986, when Parliament was suspended, and in 1976, when the assembly was suspended for four years.

Sheikh Saad said that within days, decisions related to lifting the censorship imposed on Kuwait's once freewheeling press when Parliament was dissolved would be announced.

Sheikh Saad said in Cairo his country was closely following events in Eastern Europe and was taking part in a pan-Arab study on their implications.

"We have also started preparing a strategy with our (Arab) brothers to face any negative impacts — political, economic or military — (that) these changes might have on the Arab nation," the Prime Minister said.

Sheikh Saad said the study would be put to Arab leaders at their next summit.

Sheikh Saad yesterday concluded his official visit to Egypt, during which he held talks on expanding bilateral relations and joint ventures.

Sheikh Saad, who arrived here on Monday heading a high-level delegation, said in the press conference that talks with Egyptian leaders focused on many regional and international issues topped by the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Iran-Iraq situation, the events in Eastern Europe and other issues influencing the stand of the Arab world.

He pointed out that bilateral relations received substantial attention from the two sides leading to signing of several agreements on co-operation and co-operation in various fields of mutual interest.

Commenting on the purpose (Continued on Page 9)

\$20m jewellery theft

Suspect arrested

BANGKOK, Jan 12. (AP): A man who allegedly stole \$20 million worth of jewellery from a royal palace in Saudi Arabia has been arrested, the national police chief said today.

Kirangkrai Tejamook, 32, admitted he took the jewelry from Prince Faisal Bin Fahad's palace in Riyadh while working as a cleaner there last year, police Gen. Sawaeng Theerasawat said.

Sawaeng told a news conference the jewelry belonged to the Prince's consort and was kept in three unlocked safes in her bedroom.

He said Kirangkrai, who was arrested on Wednesday in a hotel in the northwestern town of Mae Sot, told police he sold the jewellery for 5 million baht (\$200,000) to gold shops in Bangkok, Lumpang and another province.

Meanwhile, the Philippine armed forces chief dismissed widespread speculation about a new army mutiny as "coup fever" but a renegade ex-brigadier said President Aquino would be ousted and a military-civilian ruling council set up.

Sidelights

Threat of struggle: A Filipino general said on Friday he would be willing to lead a guerrilla war against military dissidents if they managed to topple President Corazon Aquino and seize power.

Brig. Gen. Rudolfo Blazon, chief of the national capital region defence command, also warned that a military takeover would create an economic crisis and result in the suppression of civil rights.

During a symposium, Blazon was asked whether he would be willing to lead an underground struggle if the reform the armed forces movement leaders of last month's failed coup, ever toppled Aquino.

"If I am not dead, yes," Blazon replied. "It is a naked grab for power and changing of government outside of the constitution, I don't think I will be alone." (AP)

Women give birth during gunbattle: Two women who gave birth during a clash between government troops and Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines decided to name their babies for weapons used in the conflict.

Both the mothers began experiencing labour pains as soon as the 15-minute firefight began. Both gave birth on the spot and were brought to a nearby clinic after the shooting stopped. (AP)

Marcos supporter gets life: A court on Thursday sentenced a former provincial governor and staunch supporter of the late President Marcos to life in prison for the 1986 kidnapping and murder of three election campaigners for President Corazon Aquino.

The court said Orlando Dulay, former governor of the northern Philippine province of Quirino, kidnapped the three a day before the Feb. 7, 1986, presidential election. They were found dead days later.

The three — Francisco Laurel, Fernando Pastor and Fernando Pastor Jr. — belonged to the United Democratic Organization, the party under which Aquino challenged Marcos.

Court records said Dulay and his bodyguards abducted the three men in the town of Difun in Quirino, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Manila. (AP)

Today's hearing before a panel of 15 prosecutors gave Enrile a chance to respond. The panel has 10 days to decide whether to indict Enrile. The senator appeared along with a fellow defendant — Makati city councilman Bobby Brillante — and lawyers for three others also recommended for charges.

Before the hearing, hundreds of Enrile supporters appeared outside the hall with placards reading "justice for Enrile" and denouncing Mrs Aquino.

The hearing was so agitated that at one point, Brillante's attorney, Antonio Coronel, lost his temper while vigorously arguing a point of law.

Enrile said he was considering asking Pope John Paul II to overrule the cardinal and allow the priest to testify.

In a statement to news organizations, rebels of the "reform the armed forces movement" said the "Filipino people are entitled to elect a new leader, not from the present crop of rotten, traditional politicians who lack the political will and moral authority to institute genuine reforms," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Philippine armed forces chief dismissed widespread speculation about a new army mutiny as "coup fever" but a renegade ex-brigadier said President Aquino would be ousted and a military-civilian ruling council set up.

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'Army train death squads'

COLOMBO, Jan 12, (AP): Opposition leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike claimed that the death squads have been trained in an army camp to eliminate politicians who oppose the government.

"They have been instructed to eliminate opposition political cadres, polling agents, family members and close associates of members of parliament," Bandaranaike told Parliament during debate on a no-confidence motion against President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government.

Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party and three other parties introduced the motion, which was expected to fail during an expected vote today.

Premadasa's United National Party holds 124 of parliament's 225 seats. The four opposition parties have 84 seats. Most other legislators said they would not support the no-confidence motion.

The motion accused the government of failing to restore peace, permitting and encouraging vigilantes to kidnap, torture and kill civilians, bankrupting the economy and ignoring corruption.

Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, a member of Premadasa's party, attempted to respond to Bandaranaike's charges, but speechmaker Gaminu Fonseka told him to wait his turn.

Bandaranaike, a former prime minister, claimed death squads received weapons training at the Galle Face army base, 20 kilometers (12 miles) northeast of Colombo. She claimed they were provided with fake army identification cards and hit lists.

"This conspiracy against the democratic opposition, if not thwarted, will pave the way for a one-party dictatorship state," she said.

She claimed thousands of her Freedom Party members had been arrested, abducted or murdered by "killer squads" in counter-subversive operations.

For the past two and half years, the government has been drawn ever deeper into a battle with Sino-Indian extremists of the People's Liberation Front, which began assassinating government officials for trying to make peace with insurgents from the Tamil minority.

Missile attack

Afghan Scud lands near Wah

ISLAMABAD, Jan 12, (AP): A missile slammed into a field about two miles (four kilometers) from Pakistan's largest complex of ordnance factories, a government official said yesterday. "No injuries or damage was reported."

The missile landed just outside of the city of Wah, located about 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of Islamabad and about 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of the Afghanistan border.

There were conflicting reports about whether the missile actually exploded, and there were unconfirmed reports that it was fired by Afghanistan.

Reports published in several English-language daily newspapers claimed the missile, which the Defense Ministry has refused to identify, failed to explode upon impact.

Witnesses in Wah disagreed. Nasrat Ali said: "We heard a loud blast and there was so much dust in the air everything was black." Another government official stationed near Wah, speaking on condition of anonymity, also claimed the missile exploded.

The ordnance complex which is Wah's only industry, produces most of Pakistan's small arms.

The Pakistan government is not saying where the missile came from.

But an army official, who insisted on anonymity, indicated it was fired from Afghanistan. He also said it was a Scud missile.

From their headquarters in Pakistan, Afghan anti-communist rebels have waged an 11-year war against Afghanistan's ruling Marxist government.

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The Ginza: priciest street in the world

NEW YORK, Jan 12, (AP): With \$675, you could buy some nice things on The Ginza, Tokyo's glitzy shopping district. But if you're looking to rent some commercial space there, that \$675 will get you one square foot (0.09 square metres) for a year, according to a private survey of the world's priciest streets.

The Ginza topped the list for the second straight year, Hubert and Peters Inc., a commercial real estate firm, reported Thursday.

Second
Moving into second place was Nathan Road—Queens road in Hong Kong, bumping New York's East 57th street down to third. Another Asian thoroughfare, Orchard Road in Singapore, replaced Toronto's Bloor Street in the top 10.

New York continued to have the most streets on the list, with four.

The top 10: 1. The Ginza, Tokyo, \$675; 2. Nathan Road—Queens Road, Hong Kong, \$375; 3. East 57th Street, New York, \$550; 4. Fifth Avenue, New York, \$500; 5. Madison Avenue, New York, \$400; 6. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, California, \$275; 7. Lexington Avenue, New York City, \$225; 8. Bond Street, London, \$200; 9. Rue du Faubourg, Paris, \$175; 10. Orchard Road, Singapore, \$175.

If there's a common denominator in the most expensive streets, it's that they almost always contain designer names and upscale shops," said Michael Hirschfeld, chief marketing officer of Hubert and Peters.

"This is indicative of what has happened on the retail scene in 1989 — the world class shops have done extremely well while many less distinctive retailers have had their problems," he said.

Hirschfeld said there were several streets that resemble the upscale top 10, but have rents below the others.

They include Michigan Avenue, Chicago; Champs Elysees, Paris; Via Condotti, Rome; Regent Street, London; Newberry Street, Boston; Union Square, San Francisco; Columbus Avenue, New York; Worth Avenue; Palm Beach, California; Bloor Street, Toronto; and Rue du Rhone, Geneva.



Competitors hopping mad

A frog importer insisted on Thursday he would enter his giant African frogs in a fanned California jumping contest despite protests from other competitors, including a joking threat to check the invaders for sterility.

Other owners of smaller American frogs said they would try to keep the African out of the contest on grounds that

the goliath frogs could escape and disrupt the California environment.

But Any Koffman, a US importer of exotic birds, reptiles and amphibians, said on Thursday he intends to enter frogs he imports from Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea in the May 17-20 contest. (Reuter Wirephoto)

Returns lost bonds though hard-up

Millionaire for half an hour

LONDON, Jan 12, (Reuter): A hard-up surveyor found four million pounds (\$6.6million) in a guitar outside London's stock exchange and returned the fortune without a second thought.

Martin Ritchie, forced to sell his car to cut his debts, became a millionaire for half an hour on Tuesday when he found the wad of bearer-bond certificates which can be cashed with no questions asked.

After he returned them to brokers Rowe and Pitman, 23-year-old Ritchie has no regrets.

"I am not thinking I should have done a runner (fled)," he told reporters. "I suppose I have been brought up honest."

A city stockbroker commented: "If I had found them I would have been off."

Instead, Ritchie returned to his one-bedroom flat in north London with a magnum of champagne from Rowe and Pitman.

Grammy awards live on Feb 21

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Jan 12, (Agence France Presse): Don Henley's "The End of the Innocence" and "The Voice of the Wind" were among four Grammys won yesterday and Bette Midler, Bonnie Raitt, Tom Petty, U2 and Billy Joel drew multiple nominations for the 32nd annual awards show.

The awards ceremony will be broadcast live Feb 21 at 8 pm (0100 GMT) from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. The show will be produced for the 20th time by Pierre Cosette.

"End of Innocence" was nominated for album of the year, and the title track won the nod for record of the year. The single was nominated for song of the year, a writer's award, and Henley also was nominated for male rock performance.

Miss Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings" was nominated for record of the year, song of the year and female pop vocal performance.

The rock band Fine Young Cannibals was nominated for best album for "The Raw And The Cooked."

Contenders for best new artist were Neneh Cherry, Indigo Girls, Milli Vanilli, Soul II Soul and TLC.

The nominations were announced by producer Quincy Jones, a 15-time Grammy award winner, and Olivia Newton-John, winner of four Grammys, at a morning news conference.

Mike Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, announced that four musicians will be given lifetime achievement awards at the February ceremony. Crooner Nat King Cole and pianist Vladimir Horowitz will be recognised posthumously. Miles Davis and Paul McCartney are expected to perform when they receive their awards.

Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr received a nomination for his country single "Act Naturally" with Buck Owens.

With all three surviving Beatles receiving good reasons to attend the awards ceremony, speculation bubbled over the possibility that they might perform as a group.

A spokeswoman for the academy was not able to confirm rumours that producers plan to ask McCartney, Harrison and Starr to reunite on stage.

In addition to "The End of the Innocence," "We Didn't Start the Fire" and "Wind Beneath My Wings," contenders for song of the year — awarded to the songwriter — were "Don't Know Much," recorded by Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville, and "The Living Years" recorded by Mike and The Mechanics.

"Batman," which demolished movie box office records, was nominated for both Prince's soundtrack album (best pop male vocal performance) and for Danny Elfman's instrumental score album.

Greene said the nominees represented 113 different record companies — a strong indication that the "big six" record companies are not "taking over" the industry.

About 6,000 academy members will vote on 388 nominees in 77 categories to determine the winners.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Barr zinged as a 'bowling alley reject'

Blackwell list of fashion frumps

LOS ANGELES, Jan 12, (AP): LaToya Jackson, Roseanne Barr, Demi Moore and Kim Basinger led Mr. Blackwell's 30th annual list of worst-dressed celebrities Wednesday, while praise went to Gema Davis, Liza Minnelli, Barbara Bush and Princess Diana.

The acid-tongued critic also lauded 1989 fashion darlings Princess Anne, Emily Lloyd, Cher, Daryl Hannah and Paula Abdul and gave a shamed dishonour to Madonna and Sandra Bernhard.

Model-actress Grace Jones won "Fashion Fiasco of the Year" for an outfit blackwell described as "Darth Vader's 3-D-M Fantasy in a bird cage."

Miss Jackson, a pop singer and sister of Michael Jackson, will be the "Cher For The 90's" who is "more fashion freak than biker chick ... in leather and chains," said Blackwell.

Television's miss Barr was zinged as a "bowling alley reject," former brat-packer Miss Moore was a "spandex nightmare on Willis Street," and Batman's miss Basinger was a "parading peep-show (who) should be banished to the batcave."

Blackwell reduced Princess Anne to "jumpy, dumpty and frumpy," Cheri to a "bag of iatrococed bones in a sequined singlet," Miss Hannah to a "Vegas Venus co steroid," Miss Abdul to a "fashion gypsy (who) dances to the light (and) dresses in the dark," and Madonna-Bernhard to "... vampy, trampy ... and cartoon camp."

Joining the list of "fabulous fashiono independents" were Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Barbara Walters, Angela Lansbury, Tina Brown, Ivana Trump and Jacqueline Onassis.

"The combat sequences are the best I've seen in a movie about the 19th century," he said. "All the uniforms, the accoutrements, the tack on the horses, even what I would call the background props, they're all great." (AP)

AMSTERDAM: "Stuffy" a seven-year-old tabby cat, has finally managed to "lick his heroine" addicchio — with a little help from his friends.

The cat had been injected with the drug by his addict owner for several years.

Neighbours, alarmed by Stuffy's unsteady gait and dilated pupils, alerted volunteers from the cat to need charity in the northern Dutch village of Lauwerszijl.

"We gave him valium and a barbiturate for three months, gradually reducing the doses," said a charity spokesman.

He said Stuffy was now completely cured and had gained weight but his fur remained thin and scabby.

The cat would not be returned to its owner, he added. (Reuter)

NEW YORK: The National Board of Review, the United States' oldest film award organisation, Wednesday named Warner Brothers' "Driving Miss Daisy" the best picture of 1989.

NBR's annual awards, given since 1917, are considered a preview of the Hollywood Oscar awards, which often have been identical to the board's. "Driving Miss Daisy" is the recently released film version of an off Broadway play and stars Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman.

The best foreign film award went to a French picture, "The Story of Women."

The board named NBC's "Ree ve Wade as the best film made for television and gave CBS' "Law & Order" the best TV miniseries award.

TRENTON, New Jersey: The New Jersey legislature says that the stars of professional wrestling are entertainers and not athletes.

The state assembly voted 44-4 Monday to approve a bill that would reduce the regulation of those growing a "bowling giant by rendering professional wrestling from the jurisdiction of New Jersey Athletic Commission.

The bill, previously passed by the New Jersey Senate, awaits action by Governor Thomas H. Kean.

Supporters, including the World Wrestling Federation, say the measure would reduce the overhead of promoting a wrestling exhibition in New Jersey, and therefore make it easier for fans to see such wrestlers as Hulk Hogan and Rowdy Roddy Piper in person. (AP)

SAN JOSE, California: Administrators had to tear down a huge \$10,000 multilingual welcome banner hoisted over the city library walkway because of "insults and one embarrassingly poor translation."

The 30-foot-high (9-m) banner carried greetings in 27 languages, but the intended Filipino message of "welcome" actually meant "circumlocution."

"Some of the mistakes were ours, and some of them were typos," senior Librarian X. Christie Vogel said Thursday. "There was a heck of a lot of scurrying around when we found out." (UPI)

LOS ANGELES: Lindsay Crosby, 51-year-old son of Bing Crosby, committed suicide with a single gunshot wound to his head, a coroner's spokesman said on Wednesday.

Friends said Crosby had fought alcoholism and depression. They said the first two of his three marriages ended in divorce and he was separated from his third wife.

His body was found by a friend in his apartment in the Los Angeles

suburb of Calabasas on Monday. A body was near the body.

Crosby was the youngest of four sons of Bing Crosby's wife, Doris Lee Crosby, who died in 1952. Bing Crosby had two sons and a daughter by his second marriage, to Kathryn Crosby, and died in Spain in 1977 after collapsing while playing golf. (Reuter)

BELMONT, Michigan: Lawrence Gebo has been fascinated with the Parthenon for 40 years, but he was unable to afford a trip to see the famed temple in Athens, Greece. So he built his own.

Gebo, 76, made a nearly exact model of the building as it was supposed to have looked originally. The model, made of curly maple instead of marble, is about 5 feet (1.52 metres) long and 27 inches (68.6 centimetres) wide, on a scale of 1-to-48.

The retired carpenter, who became fascinated with the Parthenon when he saw an artist's rendering in a magazine 40 years ago, began work on his replica in 1988 in a workshop behind his home, and spent more than 1,500 hours on it. (AP)

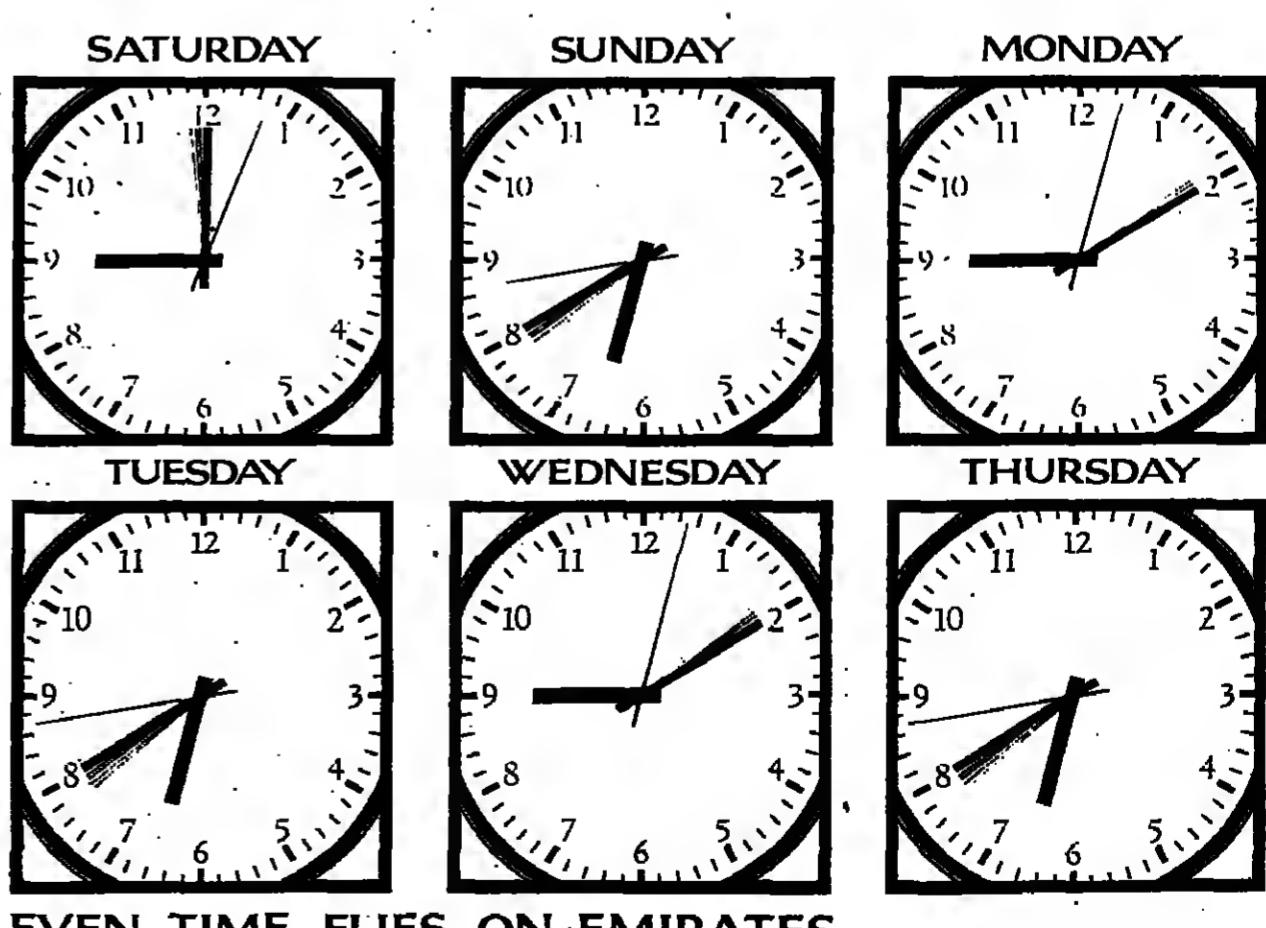
PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania: Glory, the US civil war movie starring Matthew Broderick and Morgan Freeman, has passed muster as authentic in its depiction of a regiment of black soldiers.

Russ Pritchard, a firearms expert at Philadelphia's civil war library and museum, said he and another civil war expert, flag collector Stan Sandler, found "extraordinarily minor" flaws during a preview Friday.

History buffs often have complained about the lack of authenticity to the treatment of the civil war on television and in the movies.

"It's an absolute incredible movie," Pritchard said.

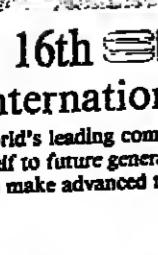
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Columbia crew to the rescue of falling satellite



A navy Syncom satellite spins from the cargo bay of the shuttle Columbia after it was deployed. The satellite will be used to provide communications between military units around the world. (Rautar wirephoto)



Shuttle Columbia pilot James Wetherbee studies a checklist on the flight deck of the orbiter as he prepares for a 'burn' of the orbital manoeuvring system. (Rautar wirephoto)

Trickiest move ever attempted

CAPE CANAVERAL, Jan 12, (AP): Columbia's radar located an orbiting science lab today as the astronauts moved in to capture it with the space shuttle's robot arm and save it from fiery doom while re-entering the atmosphere.

"We've got a good lock on it at 148,158 feet," commander Dan Brandenstein reported as the crew turned the radar for the final hours of the 300-mile-high (320-kilometre-high) chase.

Shortly before 6 a.m. (1100 GMT), three hours before the predicted rendezvous, Columbia was about 28 miles (45 kilometres) from the satellite, called the long duration exposure facility. Both were traveling at more than 17,400 mph (28,000 kilometres) about 200 miles (320 kilometres) above the globe.

Earlier, Brandenstein reported the astronauts had spotted the 11-tonne, 30-foot-long (nine-metre-long) satellite glinting in the sunlight more than 100 miles (160 kilometres) away during the night and that it was "as bright as could be."

Brandenstein and pilot Jim Wetherbee were guiding Columbia to the rendezvous. After catching up they planned

to fly in formation at a distance of 35 feet (10 metres) while mission specialist Bonnie Dunbar uses the shuttle's 50-foot (15-metre) robot arm to snatch the satellite.

Dunbar was to hold the huge payload on the end of the arm for four hours, twisting it slowly, while mission specialists Marsha Ivins and David Low photographed all of its 57 experiments from every angle.

"Some might have become so eroded or weakened by the long exposure to space and bombardment by micrometeoroids and atomic oxygen that they could fall apart during the stress of atmospheric re-entry or a return to Earth's gravity," Dunbar said. "We want good documentary photos in case that happens."

After photographing the satellite, Dunbar was to tuck it into the shuttle's cargo bay.

The satellite, the size of a small bus, contains a wealth of scientific and technological information after being exposed to the space environment for six years.

But it was being slowed by atmospheric drag and tugged down by Earth's gravity, and was expected to plunge to Earth on March 9 and burn up in the atmosphere. If the astronauts didn't retrieve it.

Nasa might lose its monopoly

ARLINGTON, Virginia, Jan 12, (AP): Vice President Dan Quayle hinted Wednesday that Nasa might lose its monopoly on US space exploration, with the government turning to a programme that could include commercial and defence elements.

Quayle, speaking at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society, said he has been told by space experts that changes are needed in how the United States conducts its space exploration.

The vice president, who is chairman of the National Space Council, said the organisation "is looking across the traditional divisions among civil, commercial and national security activities" in reassessing the US space programme.

"We are building a programme that is more than the sum of these parts," said Quayle.

Quayle gave no specific details how the national space effort might be split between various agencies.

But a source at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said that some in the agency have interpreted his remarks as suggesting that some other agencies may assume a larger role in the US space programme. The source said such a division of efforts have been discussed within the agency.

Quayle said President George Bush has asked the space council "that we shape a space programme that is aggressive and innovative and that we challenge accepted ways of doing business."

Quayle said he has met with groups of space experts and "I heard much the same thing from almost all of them. They told me that we simply can no longer accept the status quo, I agree."

As chairman of the National Space Council, Quayle said, "I intend to bring the kind of innovative approaches to the space programme of the 90s that were characteristic of Polaris, Atlas, Apollo, Voyager and some programmes in the defence advanced research projects agency."

Quayle said that a major effort of a revamped space programme would be development of expanded space launch capabilities. Systems to launch into space, he said, "are as vital to space travel as the interstate highway system is to motor travel."

Launch systems, he said, "cannot be considered only within the context of a single government agency. They cannot be built to meet the needs of only a specific space programme. They must be structured to accommodate both current needs and future programme."

One of the most serious effects of the 1986 Challenger explosion that grounded the space shuttle fleet was that it virtually left the United States without a way to launch large satellites. The shuttle had been developed with the promise that it would serve all of the nation's space launch needs.

Quayle reaffirmed Bush administration support for plans to return humans to the moon and eventually send astronauts to Mars.

Asteroids wiped out dinosaurs

WASHINGTON, Jan 12, (Reuter): A new study of plant fossils adds weight to the theory that the dinosaurs were wiped out after a giant asteroid collided with the Earth, a government scientist reported.

Jack Wolfe of the US Geological Survey said his study of changes in the shape of the leaves of fossilised plants 65 million years ago indicates a precipitous drop in temperature for one to two months followed by a fourfold increase in rainfall and a 10 degrees centigrade (18 Fahrenheit) rise in temperature over the next 500,000 to one million years.

The climatic changes occurred at precisely the time that the dinosaurs disappeared from the face of Earth.

While the extinction of the dinosaurs has been shrouded in mystery, scientists increasingly are convinced that it followed a collision of the Earth with a giant asteroid.

Such a collision would have sent a large cloud of dust or water vapour into the air, initially blocking out the sun's rays but eventually creating a greenhouse effect that would have sent global temperatures soaring.

The principal evidence behind the theory is the discovery in numerous sites around the world of a thin layer of an element rare on Earth but found in abundance in asteroids.

Lead exposure causes trouble

Permanent learning disability

BOSTON, Jan 12, (UPI): Low-level lead exposure during childhood has permanent effects that follow its victims into adulthood, including a high school dropout rate seven times the national average, researchers said.

In a follow-up of a landmark 1979 study which prompted removal of lead from America's gasoline supply and restricted the use of lead in paint products, researchers found those same children — now young adults — are plagued by serious academic and socioeconomic problems.

Besides the high dropout rate, the lead-exposed subjects displayed poorer reading, vocabulary and motor skills, weaker hand-eye co-ordination and more behavioural problems than non-exposed individuals, researchers said.

"The practical importance of early detection and abatement of lead in the environment, before it enters the bodies of children, is borne out by these long-term findings in young adults," said the researcher, who reported their findings Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Lead exposure, to which the developing central nervous systems of young children are most susceptible, can cause brain damage and impair mental development.

Experts had suspected that lead exposure would have long-term effects, but the new study by Dr Herbert Needleman of the University of Pittsburgh and colleagues at Harvard University and Children's Hospital in Boston was the first to prove it.

"We found that it is permanent, and that it reflects itself in real-life success, not just IQ numbers. The victims are not graduating from high school and they have reading difficulties," Needleman said.

The dark side of this problem is what it means in job opportunities and earning capacity for these people. The good side is that this is a totally preventable disease."

The main causes of lead exposure are paint chips and paint dust from houses built before the mid-1950s, household water supplies that flow through lead pipes and lead solder, and soil.

Last summer, the Federal Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta estimated that 17 per cent of the children in the United States under age 5 had elevated blood lead levels. In its report to Congress, the agency estimated that figure jumped to 55 per cent for poor black children.

The CDC's Dr Frank Mitchell said the Needleman study "confirms that we are paying a high price for lead-poisoned children."

"Obviously getting the lead out of gasoline has reduced the amount of lead in the air," Mitchell said. "We have made some significant progress in food and solder. Lead in soil is a very tough nut to crack."

"The lead in soil and in older houses is pervasive. Any house built before the mid-1950s by definition has lead paint in it," the CDC official said.

"Eating lead paint is still a problem. Surprisingly enough, the picture people have of a child peeling paint off the wall is not the prime problem. It is the soil, dust, air and water that we all live around every day."



Mine explosion victim

A miner with 70 per cent burns is treated in a hospital after a gas explosion in Poland's deepest coal mine killing seven and injuring 21. The explosion occurred 1,030 metres underground in the mine in Ruda Slaska. (Rautar wirephoto)

Women drinkers

Getting more kick

BOSTON, Jan 12, (AP): Scientists believe they have solved one of the enduring mysteries of the sexes — why men can drink more alcohol than women.

Many believe that women typically get drunk more quickly than men, even when their smaller size is taken into account, and they are more likely to suffer liver damage from alcohol abuse.

The researchers say the difference is all in the stomach.

They found that men make far higher amounts of a protective stomach enzyme that breaks down alcohol before it hits the bloodstream. The result: they don't get as tipsy as women on the same number of drinks.

"The implication of this is that when it comes to social drinking, women should be more careful than men for a given amount of alcohol when driving or operating equipment," said Dr Charles S. Lieber, a co-author of the study and director of the Alcohol Research and Treatment Centre at the Bronx veterans affairs medical center.

Among the study's findings:

— Women absorb about one-third more alcohol into their blood than men do, even when they are the same size and drink the same amount.

— The enzyme, called alcohol dehydrogenase, works better when people have a full stomach. This explains why folks handle their liquor better if they drink after eating.

— Alcoholics make less of the protective enzyme than social drinkers do.

"I am convinced that there are sex differences in handling alcohol," commented Dr. Judith Gavaler of the University of Pittsburgh. "This is a very important study for all of us doing research in alcohol. This will change the way we approach this subject."

The study, directed by Dr Mario Frezza of the University School of Medicine in Trieste, Italy, was published in yesterday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The study found that non-alcoholic women make about 30 per cent less of the enzyme than non-alcoholic men do. While alcoholic men produce less than social drinkers, the difference was most dramatic in alcoholic women, who make virtually none of the enzyme.

"In alcoholic women, there is for all practical purposes no gastric protection anymore," said Lieber.

Medical breakthrough

Interferon genes leukemia linked: Loss of genes that make interferon, a natural disease-fighting substance, has been linked with development of a form of leukemia, researchers said.

The researchers speculate that the interferon genes may act as regulators that stop the body's cells from becoming cancerous.

Researchers from the University of Chicago found an association between loss of genes and development of acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a blood cancer that is the most common form of childhood leukemia. (AP)

Safety arguments on vaccine: A panel of US experts heard conflicting views Wednesday on whether the vaccine used to prevent whooping cough is safe or can cause brain damage and death in some children.

Officials of the American Academy of Pediatrics maintained that there is no scientific proof the vaccine causes severe neurological damage or death, but said it can worsen pre-existing problems or bring them to light where they had previously been unknown. (AP)

Vaccine for lyme disease: Research on human application of an animal vaccine for lyme disease could begin within a month, and a human lyme disease vaccine could be available within five years, the vaccine's developer said Wednesday.

The vaccine, developed in 1986, protects hamsters against infection with lyme disease, which is spread by ticks, said Russell Johnson, a microbiologist at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

A vaccine to protect dogs and other animals against lyme disease could be ready for use in a year, said Johnson. Development of a human vaccine takes longer because of the higher standards such a co-operative is in the investigation.

Hospital mortality study flawed: A widely used US government report comparing hospital mortality rates is flawed and may create unnecessary fear among patients about the quality of their hospitals, researchers who analysed the study said Thursday.

The report is published by the US Health Care Financing Administration, which uses a computer analysis of MediCare claims at each of the nation's nearly 6,000 hospitals to compare mortality rates among MediCare patients.

A farewell celebration and news conference were planned at the University of Chicago's Wyler Children's Hospital on Dec. 29, when donated part of her liver to her daughter on Nov. 27.

Alyssa was released from the hospital on Monday and has been staying with her mother at a nearby residence for the families of out-of-town patients.

Transplantee heads home: Alyssa Smith, the nation's first living-donor liver transplant recipient, and her mother return to their Texas home on Friday, hospital officials said.

A farewell celebration and news conference were planned at the University of Chicago's Wyler Children's Hospital on Dec. 29, when donated part of her liver to her daughter on Nov. 27.

Alyssa was released from the hospital on Monday and has been staying with her mother at a nearby residence for the families of out-of-town patients.

Doctors may starve coma patient: A Dutch court ruled on Thursday that doctors could starve to death a woman who has been in a coma for more than 15 years.

The Amelio district court turned down an appeal from the Netherlands Patients Association for an order restraining doctors who stopped artificially feeding 47-year-old Ineke Stinsen on Monday. (Reuter)

Blood donations are taxable: The Dutch Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that the Red

FDA recalls Jarvik artificial heart due to problems

US to test artificial lungs on ten human patients

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan 12, (UPI): An implantable device designed to take over half of the functions of the lung has been approved for human experimentation in four selected US medical centres.

The Utah developers said yesterday.

It proved safe and efficient in human tests scheduled to begin this year, the artificial lung could ultimately provide life-saving help to tens of thousands of patients with acute respiratory

his car's cigarette lighter, says Dr. Donald Olsen, a University of Utah researcher developing the Utah-100 hydraulic heart.

They agree that the future of

failure, said Dr. JD Mortensen, the chief developer.

"It functions as an artificial lung, if you wish to use that term," Mortensen said. "It oxygenates the blood, but equally important, it removes carbon dioxide from the blood."

However, the device is not intended as a replacement for human lungs, but a temporary aid to facilitate healing of lungs in patients with non-chronic respiratory disease, he said.

Recipients of an electric heart would wear a battery pack and be able to walk, exercise and even work, he said yesterday.

The National Heart, Lung and

Blood Institute is financing research at Penn State, the University of Utah,

the Texas Heart Institute and the Cleveland Clinic of Electric Artificial Hearts.

Rosenberg predicted the FDA will consider a totally implantable, electric heart by the late 1990s.

The FDA's recall of the Jarvik artificial heart could slow research in the field but probably won't affect patients needing temporary implants, medical experts said yesterday.

Penn State's air-driven device now is the only FDA-approved total

Built 4,300 years ago for an official in the Pharaoh's palace

Egyptian excavators find new tomb in pyramid's shadow

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt. (AP): Egyptian excavators have discovered a tomb in the shadow of the Giza pyramids that had been missed by generations of archaeologists.

The 66-foot (20-metres) tomb, with a design that antiquities officials said is unique, was built 4,300 years ago for an official in the Pharaoh's palace and his two wives.

It's the first previously unknown tomb found on Giza Plateau since the mid-1950s.

"This is the first time we've seen such a tomb," said Zahi Hawass, director-general of the Pyramids Area, whose diggers found the monument under a blanket of sand last October. "We can find no parallel to this tomb during the old kingdom."

Hawass dates the tomb to the end of the fifth dynasty, a little more than 200 years

after the death in 2528 BC of Pharaoh Cheops, builder of the nearby great pyramid.

Giza inspector Mahmoud Hassan Afifi found the tomb when he chanced upon the edge of a limestone wall.

"We looked at the old records to see what early excavators had recorded in this spot," Afifi said. "There was nothing."

Hieroglyphics revealed the tomb owner's name, that he was a "purification priest" who handled religious rituals in the temple and that he was known to the king, which made him a palace official.

Built of limestone blocks, the 26-foot (8-metre) wide, oblong tomb, called a Mastaba, stands over a shaft 23 feet (7 metres) deep that was sealed with mud bricks after bodies were lowered into it. The Mastaba

had no inner chambers.

On one side, ancient artists carved two false doors with the owner's name, Per-Ankh. The doors face a courtyard with six limestone columns describing him and his wives Mirti Nefer and N-Way.

The winter archaeology season was a month old when Afifi found the tomb, and vigorous excavation has continued since, in all weather.

On a recent morning, a vicious sandstorm so clogged the dig that workers used upside-down rubber buckets to shield their heads from the pelting sand. A mountain of debris cascaded onto the tomb's base faster than diggers could dig.

Suddenly, from deep in a shaft, workmen yelled "gungumah," or "skull" in Arabic.

As a man above slowly turned an

apparatus like a well's pulley, a reddish-gold skull crept its way up the pit and into the hands of inspectors.

It appeared to be a female's, in excellent condition.

Such a find testifies to the site's value. Nearby pits have yielded piles of pottery shards, bones and wooden pieces that antiquities officials said might be part of a bed or other funerary furniture to accompany the dead into the afterlife.

In an adjacent tomb, the same archaeological team recovered two limestone statues of wives of pharaonic officials.

Archaeologist Hawass said he knew valuable leftovers would emerge from re-excavation of the vast western cemetery, begun in the fifth year of Cheops' reign. Officials and their families used the cemetery over the

centuries, building limestone and mud-brick tombs along avenues of various sizes.

"Some Egyptologists thought the area wouldn't give anything else, but they're wrong," Hawass said. "Early excavators were in a hurry, Indiana Jones style. Some even used dynamite."

"This tomb lies at the edge of the cemetery. Earlier this century archaeologists dumped their dirt onto these hills without checking to see if anything interesting lay underneath. Chances are even more tombs still lie just over there."

Last year archaeologists clearing another part of the cemetery found the well-preserved, gypsum-masked head of a female mummy from about the same period, her faint smile liked by some to the Mona Lisa's.

Giza Plateau has two great cemeteries: the eastern, between the great pyramid and the Sphinx, and the western, wedged between the pyramids of Cheops and Chephren. Generally, queens and royal offspring are buried in the eastern cemetery, officials and their families in the western.

The cemeteries of Mastabas, dwarfed by the pyramids towering above them, were arranged in parallel rows several feet (metres) apart, with tomb ownership planned out in advance. Everybody wanted to be buried in the pyramids area, seeking special benefits in life after death.

Over the years, as demand increased, the symmetry of the cemeteries went askew. Small tombs of officials and priests were placed among the once-neat rows until the entire area was honeycombed with burials.

Quakes shake Redoubt volcano

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan 12, (UPI): Earthquakes rumbled yesterday beneath Redoubt volcano, but clouds prevented scientists from seeing whether the mountain spewed another burst of steam and ash into the air, geologists said.

"There was a seismic event at the volcano beginning at 10:01 (am local time) that lasted for between 5 to 10 minutes," said Steve Brantley of the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

He described the activity as "relatively small" and "much much smaller" than an eruption Monday.

There was no confirmation of volcanic ash because the peak was obscured by dense clouds, Brantley said.

There had been no eruptions at the volcano, 110 miles (180 km) southwest of Anchorage. Since Moody's surprise blast sent ash 40,000 feet (12,000 m) into air.

Schools in the Soldotna area, hardest hit by the volcanic ash, remained closed for the third day as Borough officials checked ventilation systems and looked for ways to settle the ash.

The first of two scheduled tankers arrived at the crippled Drift River facility early Wednesday and crews spent the rest of the day trying to restore power with temporary generators, said Larry Dooceason, terminal manager.

Dooceason said yesterday he expected pumping to start within "a couple of hours."

Power to the facility was knocked out by mudflows following an eruption Jan 2. The facility also suffered partial flooding after the blast sent steaming boulders and mud down the Drift river.



A four-wheel-drive vehicle negotiates flood waters in Centralia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Floods cause havoc

Five dead in US

CENTRALIA, Washington, Jan 12, (UPI): Waves of flood waters covered southwest Washington and northern Oregon yesterday, closing part of a busy interstate highway and other roads and forcing about 3,000 people to flee their homes.

The floods, which caused at least three deaths in southwestern Washington, were beginning to recede on the plains west of the Cascade mountains late Wednesday. Bad weather also was blamed for two deaths in Oregon since a series of storms smashed ashore last weekend.

Residents sandbagged riverbanks in some coastal Washington towns as they braced for the rivers to crest at Harbour's Edge yesterday and today.

"This is potentially the worst flooding since the 1930s," said Sheriff Dennis Morrissey of Grays Harbour county.

The deaths included a man whose body was found floating in the Centralia flood waters. A man whose car was swamped on a flooded section of Interstate 5 south of town also died, and a man drowned in his car north of Tacoma, authorities said.

Twenty miles (nineteen kilometres) of Interstate 5, the north-south artery linking Portland, Oregon, and Seattle in the northwestern United States, was closed after flood waters covered a two-mile (three-kilometre) stretch near Centralia, the Department of Emergency management reported.

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Search for 10th planet begins

ARLINGTON, Virginia, Jan 12, (AP): Astronomers at the Naval Observatory are narrowing their solar system search for a 10th planet, a mysterious, phantom giant that has long captured the speculation and interest of stargazers.

Speculation about the existence of another planet evolved because something, perhaps a massive object orbiting the sun on the outer edge of the solar system, is giving a gravitational nudge that disrupts the predicted orbits of Uranus and Neptune, said astronomer R.S. Harrington.

"We are still incapable of predicting the location of Uranus," Harrington said. "It's clear something is wrong in the outer solar system."

Astronomers have theorized since the beginning of the century that some additional planets existed beyond the orbits of Neptune. The theory sprang from observations that Uranus failed to orbit the sun with the majestic and mathematical symmetry experts expected.

That led to a search that resulted in the 1930 discovery of Pluto, the ninth known planet in the solar system. Further searching yielded in 1978 that a moon was orbiting Pluto.

But Harrington said calculations later showed the combined mass of Pluto and its moon are about 1,000 times too small to account for the detected, but unexplained irregularity of the Neptune and Uranus orbits.

"Something is there and we've got to look," Harrington said.

Some astronomers have attributed the abnormal orbit of Uranus and Neptune to errors in calculation.

But Harrington said a model of the solar system created by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which guided the Voyager spacecraft near both Uranus and Neptune, still is not consistent with recent observations on the position of Uranus. He said the JPL data seemed to be in agreement for a time, but new observations show Uranus is deviating from the expected path.

"Our current evidence is that the data is still off," he said. "We still do not understand the outer solar system."

Search for planet X is under way in Washington, the main office of the naval observatory, and at the Black Birch Astronomical Observatory near Blenheim, New Zealand.

Harrington said the search has been narrowed using a computer. A number of theoretical 10-planet solar systems were simulated in a naval observatory computer to determine where planet X had to be to produce the effects seen on the orbits of Uranus and Neptune.

That relatively small area of the heavens will be searched in April and May by an astrophotographic telescope at Black Birch. The telescope will take pictures of the target area on successive nights and the photos will be sent to Washington for study.

Harrington said he would use a machine called the blink comparator to look for the phantom planet. A blink comparator flashes back and forth between two photo plates, causing an apparent motion to the observer if any point of light in the twin photos has changed position from one night to the next.

Planet X, Harrington said, is thought to be three to five times larger than Earth and moving in an orbit about three times farther from the sun than Neptune or Pluto. That would make the phantom planet about as visible as Pluto, a planet that can be seen only with sophisticated telescopes.

■ An international team of astronomers Wednesday reported it may have witnessed the birth of a pair of quasars — the most powerful type of object in the universe.

Dr Georges Meylan of NASA's Space Telescope Institute said his team has detected an object in the constellation Pisces that appears to be a pair of quasars separated by less than 100,000 light years in a small distance in cosmic terms. One light year equals about 6 trillion miles (10 trillion km).

Studies confirm 'great attraction'

Milky Way galaxy tugged

ARLINGTON, Virginia, Jan 12, (AP): Like an immense gravitational magnet, a vast celestial structure nicknamed "the Great Attractor" is pulling powerfully at the Milky Way and more than 100 other galaxies, causing a dramatic distortion in the normal expansion of the nearby universe.

The structure has been shown in new studies to be pulling on galaxies from across more than 100 million light years of space, astronomer Alan Dressler said yesterday at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Dressler, with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, said he and Sandra Faber of the University of California at Santa Cruz have confirmed the influence of the Great Attractor by measuring the movements of about 400 galaxies and comparing that motion with what is considered normal for an expanding universe.

More than 100 galaxies were found to have a "peculiar motion" that pointed toward the center of what Dressler labeled the Great Attractor.

Current theory is that the universe is expanding at a steady rate, hence all galaxies are moving in one direction at a constant rate. Any change to rate or direction is considered "peculiar motion."

"The Great Attractor is a large area of density in which galaxies are moving toward it from one side and toward it from the other," Dressler said. "The distortion is about 500 million light years across and that the center of the structure is about 150 million light years away from the Milky Way, which is the home of the sun and the earth."

A light year is the distance a light will travel in one year, about 6 trillion miles.

Dressler said the structure stretches about 60 degrees across the Earth's view of the sky, reaching from superclusters of galaxies known as Hydra and Centaurus, through the

plane of the Milky Way, to the superclusters Pavo and Indus.

The Great Attractor is not solid, but rather is an area where there is a greater than average density of superclusters of galaxies and the so-called "Dark Matter," universal material that cannot be seen, Dressler said. Much of the mass in the universe is thought by astronomers to be "Dark Matter."

■ Astronomers reported yesterday discovering a "bar" of stars at the center of the Milky Way, suggesting our galaxy may be shaped differently than previously thought.

Galaxies, which are giant systems of stars, come in three basic shapes: Spiral, elliptical and irregular. Furthermore, about half of spiral galaxies are classified as normal, and half are considered barred.

Space scientists have generally thought the Milky Way — the cosmic home of our solar system — is a normal spiral with a round, baseball-shaped bulge of stars in the center. But new research from Princeton University and University of Maryland astronomers indicates that may not be the case.

Radio astronomy observations of hydrogen gas show the Milky Way appears to have an oval-shaped bar in its center — a large group of stars shaped more like a flattened football than a baseball, said Leo Blitz of the University of Maryland.

■ Space scientists said yesterday they are trying to figure out what lies behind a newly discovered cosmic phenomenon — stars that appear to sit in dark, empty "sockets" of space.

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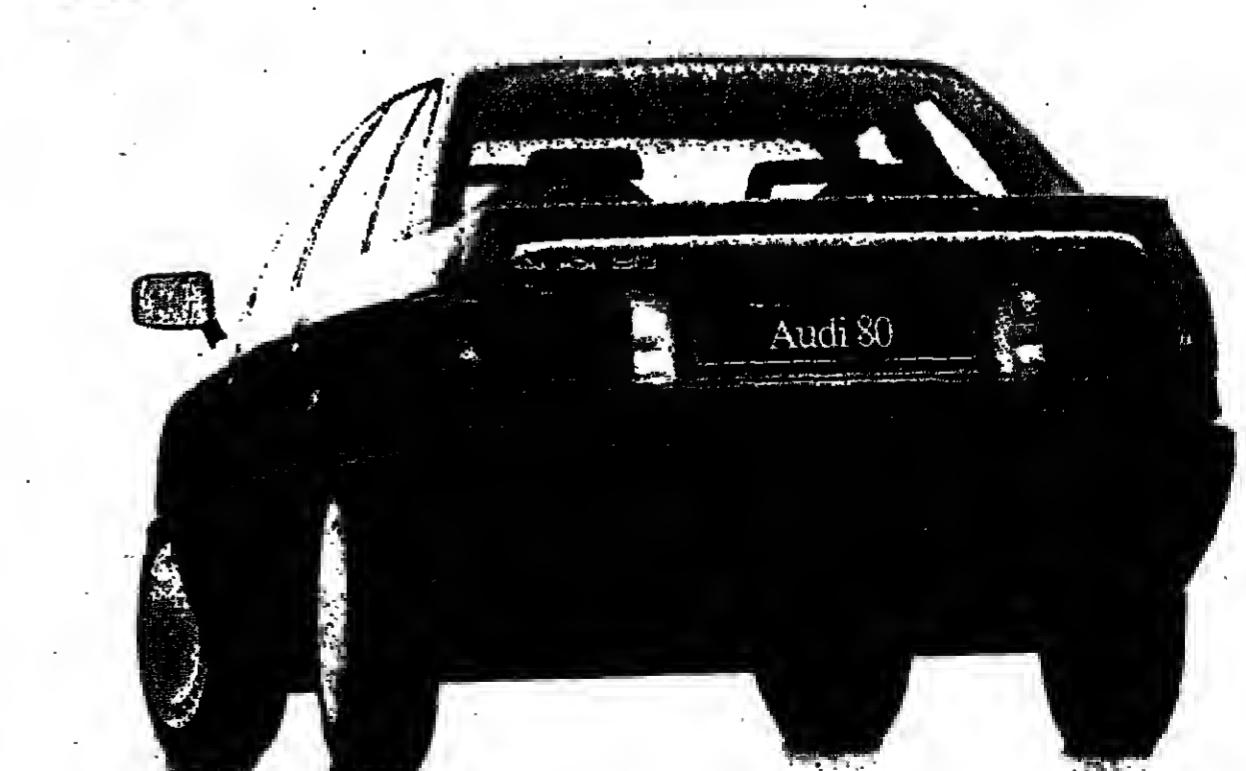
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'Irises' for grabs

Beleaguered businessman Alan Bond is prepared to sell the world's most expensive painting, Van Gogh's "Irises," if the price is right, a spokesman has said.

Michael Cross, a spokesman for Bond's private company, Dahlhold Investments, said: "Over the past few months we have received a great many offers for the painting but we said it is not for sale and is not officially on the market and that remains the case."

"We are most definitely not soliciting offers but there is a preparedness at the right price to sell the painting under the right conditions on the basis of appropriate financial terms."

Praise for reclusive writer

Rushdie reviews

NEW YORK, Jan 12, (Reuters): Novelist Salman Rushdie, in hiding from Muslim extremists who have vowed to kill him, has written a book review praising a novelist famed for being reclusive and alluded to his own enforced isolation.

In the review to be published in the New York Times' book review next Sunday, Rushdie praises "Vineland" by Thomas Pynchon in a conversational style punctuated by California beach slang much like that used by Pynchon. The book review is already available in a few bookstores.

Pynchon is the mystery man of American literature, refusing interviews and photographs and known only by a handful of people in the publishing industry.

In the review, Rushdie says: "the secrecy surrounding the publication of this book... has been let's face it, ridiculous. I mean, rilly. So he wants a private life and no photographs and nobody to know his home address. I can dig it, I can relate to that (but like, he should try it when it's compulsory instead of a free-choice option.)"

Pynchon, who wrote the best-selling "V" and "Gravity's Rainbow", has hidden from public view throughout his career. Like Rushdie, his whereabouts and plans are known only to his closest friends and literary representatives.

Rushdie has been in hiding since Iran's late leader Ayatollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill him for blasphemy against Islam in his best-selling novel "The Satanic Verses", which has since sold over a million copies in hardcover.

Book review editor Rebecca Pepper Sinker, who commissioned the piece, said it had originally contained four repetitions of an obscenity the New York Times would not print and Rushdie had objected to the deletion.

Briton slashes \$1.6m painting

LONDON, Jan 12, (AP): A man with a knife slashed a painting by the 16th century Italian artist Federico Barocci at the National Gallery and was ordered to stand trial for criminal damage, officials said yesterday.

The state-funded gallery, home of some of the greatest art treasures in Britain, said in a statement that the painting — the Madonna and Child with St. Joseph and the Infant Baptist — was cut in nine places in Wednesday's attack.

Guards wrestled the knife from the assailant, identified as Martin Cane, 27. No hometown was provided.

The National Gallery said its conservation and restoration department will take "possibly more than a year" to repair the painting, which is worth at least \$1.6 million.

"At the moment, we believe that complete restoration will be possible," said a gallery spokeswoman.

Cane appeared at Bow Street magistrates court yesterday on charges of causing criminal damage and was ordered to stand trial Feb 1 pending medical reports from a Western England hospital where he has undergone unspecified treatment.

The damaged painting had been on display since it was bequeathed to the gallery in 1931.

Gallery experts refused to estimate its value. But a lesser-known work by the same artist sold for \$209,160 at Christie's auctioneers last year.

Britain's domestic news agency, Press Association, said the painting has been valued at \$1.6-4.8 million.

But art critic Brian Sewell said the painting could fetch as much as \$25 million. Barocci was "momentarily influential in his time... and some of his work that is really authentic has come on the market for donkey's years," he said.

Matthew Stuart informed Michael Stuart within three days of the shooting about what really happened, but other family members knew nothing until this month, Clayman said.

Flanked by four of the Stuart siblings at his Chelsea law office, Clayman said three of them — Mark Stuart, Shelly Yandoli and Neysa Porter — did not learn of Stuart's involvement until three days before he was jumped to his death Jan 4 from a bridge over Boston Harbour.

Stuart kin deny any cover-up plot

BOSTON, Jan 12, (UPI): With a grand jury set to examine whether Charles Stuart killed his pregnant wife in a staged robbery that duped the nation, his siblings denied they conspired to perpetuate the racially explosive hoax.

Prosecutors who initially targeted a black suspect in the Oct 23 shooting of Carol Stuart were to reconvene a grand jury probing the bizarre slaying today. Investigators now believe Charles Stuart shot and killed his pregnant wife, Carol, in Boston's racially mixed Mission Hill neighbourhood and then shot himself in the abdomen before calling police on his car phone.

Stuart, who was 29, claimed he had been robbed and shot by a black gunman, but authorities shifted their focus to the Boston furrier after his brother Matthew, 23, told police he was an unwitting participant in the scheme.

At a news conference yesterday Richard Clayman, a lawyer for another brother, Michael, said that only Matthew and Michael Stuart knew last fall of Charles Stuart's scheme.

Matthew Stuart informed Michael Stuart within three days of the shooting about what really happened, but other family members knew nothing until this month, Clayman said.

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MONACO, (Reuters): By big city standards, Monaco's crime rate is minuscule, but a string of thefts and break-ins has the principality's high society in a state of high anxiety.

For Monaco has a cherished image as the millionaire's safe haven, one of the few places in the world where a woman wearing the family jewels can walk the streets at night without fear.

US withdrawing 2,200 soldiers from Panama

Top-notch lawyers to defend Noriega

PANAMA CITY, Jan 12, (AP): The US military is withdrawing 2,200 soldiers from Panama today, a day after the country's government declared a "new era" and began demolishing the headquarters of ousted dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Noriega's legal battle may be waged by some of the nation's most formidable courtroom warriors.

Several high-powered defense attorneys are contemplating joining the legal team assembled to represent the fallen Panamanian dictator in

Slotnick said he was contacted by representatives of Noriega and asked to defend the deposed leader, who faces 145 years in prison and fines of up to \$1.1 million if convicted.

The soldiers from the US Army's 82nd airborne division are flying from Panama to their base at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, leaving behind 19,600 troops from the US invasion force of 26,000, the US Southern Command said.

Approximately 4,400 engineers and civil affairs troops have arrived and will begin the task of rebuilding areas of the capital battered by the invasion that ousted Noriega, former chief of the Panamanian Defence Forces, the army said.

President Guillermo Endara and Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon took aim with sledgehammers yesterday at the former defence forces headquarters, command centre of Noriega's six-year rule.

Panama's fledgling civilian government plans to replace the building with "democracy plaza" and rebuild El Chorillo, a poor neighbourhood set ablaze and destroyed in fighting that left more than 20,000 residents homeless.

The US government has said it will donate \$35 million to the rebuilding, which is to follow the demolition of the square block occupied by the old defence forces installations.

In another sign that the old order had crumbled, the head of Noriega's paramilitary troops, the Dignity Battalions, surrendered to US troops on Wednesday.

Colomarco's paramilitary gunmen are blamed for setting fire to the slums surrounding defence forces headquarters and sparking some of the looting that devastated Panama City after the invasion.

Guards wrestled the knife from the assailant, identified as Martin Cane, 27. No hometown was provided.

The National Gallery said its conservation and restoration department will take "possibly more than a year" to repair the painting, which is worth at least \$1.6 million.

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Miami. "Manuel Noriega may or may not have a trial, but he should be assured the best the American justice system allows," said New York attorney Barry Slotnick, who said he would decide today whether to join the case.

The changes in the defence team appear to hinge on Slotnick, 50, who has represented alleged organised crime bosses Joseph Colombo and John Gotti, reputedly the underworld's most important "godfather."

The official also said that while final figures have not been completed, Bennett's proposed drug-fighting package is expected to total \$10 billion to \$11 billion, about a 10 per cent increase over current spending.

In addition, said the official spokesman on the condition of anonymity, the strategy would designate Miami, Los Angeles, New York City and Houston as "high-intensity drug trafficking areas."

Such designations would entitle them to additional federal assistance. But the official said since there is less than \$25 million in the discretionary fund, the cities would get relatively little.

Bennett's so-called drug strategy 2 will be an update of the congressionally imposed plan that President George Bush announced in September.

That one increased the war on all fronts — education, treatment, interdiction and law enforcement — although a wide range of critics still complained that it was inadequate to combat a worsening narcotic crisis.

The White House's domestic policy council has reviewed the new proposal that was to be presented to Bush today. The plan is to be announced Jan 29, the same day the President sends his proposed 1991 budget to Congress.

The administration official confirmed a report yesterday in the Washington Post that Bennett proposes to impose the death penalty on major drug kingpins, even if they or their organisations are not involved directly in a murder.

"You can assume that a drug network, with all its distributors and action, cause a homicide, somewhere along the line," the official said. "This proposal would be an extension of the felony murder rule."

Under that rule, if someone is involved in a crime where a murder occurs, even if they are not the one to commit the homicide, they could receive the death sentence.

The official said Bush is expected to endorse Bennett's proposal, but that it may likely run into resistance on Capitol Hill.

The United States proposal to be discussed at next months drug summit includes proposed reductions in foreign debt to compensate South American nations for lost income from cocaine production.

The economic programmes proposed by the United States to Peru, Colombia and Bolivia also would give trade preferences to products from the three countries to compensate for the billions of dollars that would be lost from reduced cocaine production.

Successful drug policy

WASHINGTON, Jan 12, (AP): A US embassy report from The Hague on the Dutch drug problem takes the controversial view that the United States could learn from a system where marijuana is legal and drug use is treated as a health problem.

The report, dated May 26, 1989, and made available to the Associated Press this week, says: "In light of our own problems, a goal for US policymakers might be an educational one."

"It is unlikely that many elements of Dutch drug policy successfully could be wrenching out of their social and cultural contexts," the report says. "However, certain of the mechanics, such as low-threshold therapy, mobile treatment units, and needle exchange might well be adaptable to the American reality."

The Netherlands' policy generally is strict law enforcement against hard drugs such as cocaine, heroin, LSD, amphetamines and hash oil, and drug trafficking, to which Holland has been vulnerable, official tolerance of soft drugs such as marijuana and hashish and decriminalisation of users.

String of thefts puts Monaco's safe haven image into jeopardy

Press reports say Monaco's ruler Prince Rainier is angry at his police force, described by its own commissioner in happier days as "an elite force for an elite community."

Rainier has reason to be concerned.

Last July thieves removed an 18th-century painting belonging to the prince from the Sale Garnier opera house, brimming with

high-technology security devices.

The painting has since been recovered and one person arrested in connection with the theft, but the incident has added to the worries of residents who boast that Monaco is the safest place in the world.

"The principality's reputation is at stake," palace spokeswoman Mireille Rebaudo told

Reuters.

Following a holdup in a jewellery shop in November, the third in 1989, after a previous average of barely one a year, Rainier asked French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe for a report on police operations.

Under a 1962 treaty, the head of Monaco's police is a high-ranking French civil servant.

Residents of Monaco, situated

between Italy and France on the Mediterranean coast, were stunned recently by a night robbery near the famous casino, almost under the noses of duty police.

Three gangsters used clubs to smash the windows of a luxury boutique before relieving the owners of jewellery worth one million francs (\$600,000).

The gang escaped in a car.

No one has been arrested.

Death for drug lords sought

WASHING

T

ON. Jan 12, (UPI): Federal anti-drug chief William Bennett recommends in his new narcotic strategy that drug kingpins receive the death sentence — even if they are not involved in a murder, an administration official said yesterday.

The official also said that while final figures have not been completed, Bennett's proposed drug-fighting package is expected to total \$10 billion to \$11 billion, about a 10 per cent increase over current spending.

In addition, said the official spokesman on the condition of anonymity, the strategy would designate Miami, Los Angeles, New York City and Houston as "high-intensity drug trafficking areas."

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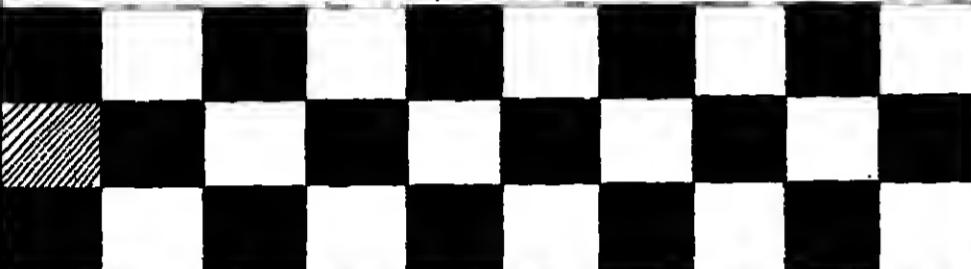
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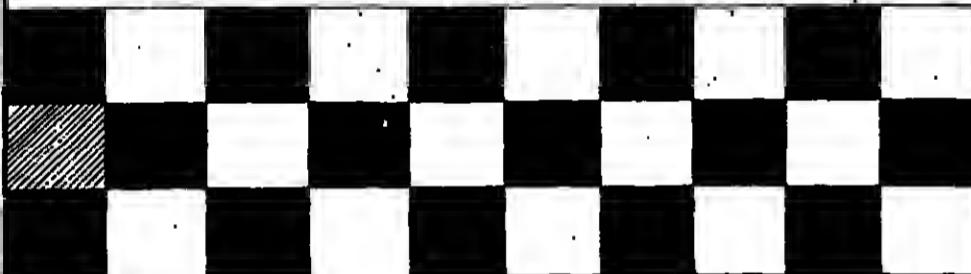
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HPC to meet on Jan 17

THE Higher Planning Council will hold its 3rd meeting of its present session next Wednesday under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem.

Fuad Mulla Husseini, secretary general of the council said that the council will discuss three main questions during the meeting.

The first related to a study by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) pertaining to the establishment of complex to produce petrochemicals in Shuaikh industrial area.

The special committee (the economic committee) at the council, headed by Dr Mohammad Al Sabah studied the project in the two previous meetings attended by the Minister of Oil and senior officials of KPC.

The second issue will be reviewed by the council and relates to the memo submitted by social services committee on results and recommendations of the study undertaken about the negative new morals and behaviours that have manifested themselves recently in Kuwaiti society. The study was conducted by a number of Kuwaiti specialists from Kuwait University and field researchers in co-operation with the secretariat of the Higher Planning Council.

The third, will be the discussion on the strategy of developing manpower and its main elements which are population, education and training.

1,401 cases of poisoning last year

HOSPITALS of the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) received 1,401 cases of patients admitted for treatment of poisoning during 1988. Dr Abdullah Asad, director of Pharmaceutical Services Department at the ministry said.

In a study published recently, Asad said that 22 cases resulted in fatalities which accounted for two per cent of cases admitted.

The official added that toxic cases had shown a steady increase from the year 1984 which recorded 941 cases and increased to 1,641 in 1986.

He disclosed that 58 per cent of these cases were reported child victims and that in 1988 there were 918 poisoning cases among children compared to 1,083 in 1987. The official attributed 51 of poisoning cases among children had been caused due to imbibing medicines.

Statistics indicated that most poisoning cases were recorded in February and September with the lowest in January and August.

About 68 per cent of poisoning cases among adults were reported by females. Al Jahra Governorate had the highest number of poisoning cases amounting to 109 for every 100,000 inhabitants and Mubarak health area recorded the least — 46 cases for every 100,000.

Meanwhile the study called for concerted efforts to minimise poisoning cases by adopting several recommendations including setting up of a special programme for combatting such cases, the development of a Toxic Data Centre by enhancing co-operation between the centre and the treatment centres in the health area and to have medicines packed in child tamper-proof packings.

He disclosed that the Medical Studies Higher Committee has discussed this issue several years ago and the society had expressed its opposition.

Kuwait Medical Society rejects working hours

THE Chairman of Kuwait Medical Society, Dr. Abdullah Al Rushaid has absolutely rejected the working hours for hospitals which were suggested recently by the ministry.

In an interview with a local daily Rushaid said that the proposed system does not comply with the social life and the climate in Kuwait.

He disclosed that the Medical Studies Higher Committee has discussed this issue several years ago and the society had expressed its opposition.

KD120m housing project for 90-91

THE present five-year-plan 1990/1995 of the Public Housing Authority (PHA) will require about KD1.031 billion, Ali Al Fouzan, assistant director general of the PHA said and added that he expected the budget of the housing projects for 1990/1991 to cost about KD120 million.

The PHA built 4,484 housing units during last year that included 2,976 houses and 1,508 land allotments. It also distributed 4,167 houses, land allotments and flats during the same year. It also built four mosques, 25 schools, 3 groups of shops, suburb centre, a health centre and 250 power transferring stations last year.

Speaking of the present five-year plan, the official said that it includes the building of 300 flats (200 in Jahra and 100 in Umm Al Hima) with an area of 200 square metres each.

The building will consist of only three floors and the authority is working in co-operation with KOC and municipality to



Plan to develop pharma services

A GRADUATION ceremony was held yesterday at the Islamic Medicine Centre for the distribution of certificates to successful participants of the second training course for the higher diploma in the field of clinical pharmacy. The ceremony was held under the auspices of the Kuwait's Minister of Planning the Acting Minister of Public Health, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

Dr Abdullah Al Rifai, secretary-general of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation speaking at the ceremony said that the institute is planning to develop the pharmaceutical services and upgrading the performance level of employees working in the area.

The official said that the institute is striving to confer the M.A. degree in clinical pharmacy and expressed the hope that new specialisations will be set up at the institute including industrial pharmacy.

He said that the role of the pharmacist is not only to dispense medicines to patients, but calls for assisting the doctor in the pathology process in addition to having sound knowledge of the side effects of various medicines dispensed. He commented that the MPW pays considerable attention to the technical and commercial developments of medicine and urged pharmacists to develop their capabilities through continued education to keep abreast with the latest technology in this field.

Meanwhile, Dr Ahmed Al Duaij, director of Pharmaceutical Services Development at Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations called for accelerating the setting up of the Faculty of Pharmacy. He disclosed that the absence of this faculty at Kuwait University had resulted in shortage of Kuwaiti pharmacists.

Meanwhile, Duaij confirmed the importance of co-operation with the Kuwait University and other scientific institutions towards upgrading the professional level of employees working in the pharmaceutical field.

Referring to the training course patronised by the minister of planning and acting minister of public health, Duaij said that this training course aims at preparing of pharmacists in the clinical pharmacy field. He added that the course covered 10 scientific topics relating to the clinical field in addition to practical training at the ministry hospitals.

The institute is planning to co-operate with the University of Belfast for conferring of pharmaceutical degrees, Duaij said.

Two sentenced for trafficking

THE Criminal court sentenced two men to five years in jail and ordered that they each pay a fine of KD200 for trafficking in narcotics.

Securitymen had kept the two under surveillance and were successful in striking up a deal with one of the accused to purchase a quantity of heroin.

On finalising of the deal with an undercover agent, securitymen arrested one of the accused and recovered the marked money.

On interrogation, the accused pointed out the residence of his accomplice. A raid of the premises revealed a quantity of drugs, along with other paraphernalia. The second accused was subsequently arrested.

Indonesian delegation

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Ahmed Al Jassar received at his office Indonesian Islamic 'Muhammadian' Society delegation on the occasion of their current visit to Kuwait. Jassar and members of the delegation exchanged viewpoints on the society's activities for Islamic cause through

its schools, hospitals and institutes located all over the Republic of Indonesia. Jassar also discussed with the delegation Kuwait's contribution in supporting the Islamic activities of the society. The 'Muhammadian' Society is one of the biggest Islamic societies in Indonesia and the world.



Bangladesh Association memorandum

The Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, submitted a memorandum to Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud during his recent visit to Kuwait. The memorandum urged the Biman Bangladesh Airlines to carry dead bodies at a flat rate of KD100. They also asked the airline to introduce direct flights between Kuwait and Dhaka. At present, Biman operates flights to Dhaka via Sharjah. They also urged the government

to train unskilled labourers so that they are not brought to Kuwait at a low salary, sometimes as low as KD15.

Picture above shows association officials with Mahmud (sixth left), the Bangladesh Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin and other embassy officers. (Photo by Javed Basra)

Kuwait to lift media censorship

(Continued from Page 1)

of the visit, the Kuwaiti leader said visits by Arab leaders to Arab capitals help construct similar policies toward issues challenging Arab countries while exchanging views on developing matters broadens understanding of each other's thinking.

He commended the role played by Egyptian government and people in extending assistance and defending Arab causes, especially the Palestinian cause.

During the talks, the Egyptian and Kuwaiti sides broadly agreed to bring closer views, stands and actions of both governments toward issues and matters in order to improve Arab image internally and externally, he noted.

"We in Kuwait, emanating from the principle of bilateral co-operation on both official and popular lines, have the enthusiasm and desire to co-operate with our brothers in Egypt in various fields," Sheikh Saad stressed.

Kuwait severed its relations with Egypt in compliance with a decision by the Arab summit in 1979 when Cairo signed a peace treaty with Israel. The relations were restored in November 1987 after Arab leaders agreed to allow individual countries to resume relations with Cairo if they chose to do so.

Sheikh Saad also hoped that the current efforts exerted by Iraq and Iran would reach an agreement that would prevent the eight-year war from re-erupting and restores peace and stability to the Gulf region.

As for the Palestinian question, the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier saluted the intifada, which he believed would go on until the Palestinian people restore their inalienable rights.

Replying to a question on whether it is high time for Kuwaiti investments in Egypt in light of his talks here, the Crown Prince expressed his country's desire to enhance co-operation with Egypt and said that the two countries' trade ministers signed an 'agreement' on establishing commercial centres in Kuwait and Cairo.

The Crown Prince added that director of the Kuwait Development Fund has signed a memo to implement Kuwait's proposals about extending a loan to Egypt to finance manufacture of polyester, adding that once study of the project is finalized, the fund would contribute to the financing of this vital scheme.

Asked about the three Arab groupings, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghrib Union (AMU), Sheikh Saad said they are tributaries that feed the main Arab stream, which ultimately seek talking in unison and rallying of Arab ranks.

On Kuwait's stance on peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, he said it has been clear both in the past and at present by envisaging a state of permanent peace between the two neighbours and prevalence of durable peace and stability in the Arab Gulf region.

Sheikh Saad indicated that the stance has been made quite clear to officials in Iran and renewed his appeal to Tehran "to respond, as Iraq did, to Security Council resolution 598". He hoped that Iraq and Iran would "reach a formula that would ensure tranquility and completely eliminates the spectre of war" from the region.

Strange tree in Hawalli

A STRANGE tree that grew behind a building in Hawalli area has reportedly been the cause of sending two ladies, who ate its fruit, to the intensive care unit.

According to one of the victims, identified as Sabila Mahmood, she was informed by her neighbour that the fruit of the tree tasted very good and recommended it to her as a sweet tasting fruit.

On consumption, Mahmood said that she felt giddy, hallucinated because blue and could not speak. Her husband who found her in this state, rushed her to the hospital, where immediate treatment to induce vomiting and pumping of her stomach were resorted to in an attempt to get rid of the toxic substance.

She was kept under observation for 12 hours and then released.

However, Fiddiya who had consumed a larger quantity of the fruit from the same tree has been transferred to the intensive care at the Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital.

Investigations of the fruit of this tree have revealed that the fruit contains narcotic substances which caused the symptoms of the two patients.

Pictorial highlights of Premier's Cairo trip



Quranic illustrations can spark Rushdie-type furore

A PROMINENT Islamic scholar has warned that the reported French publication of a book using drawings to interpret the Holy Quran could spark a furore like the outcry over Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," a newspaper reported.

The work of Fiddiya Siddiqi, a Tunisian who has lived in Paris since 1983, on Islam's holy book was denounced by Mohammed Faidallah, head of Islamic Jurisprudence at Kuwait University's Islamic Studies Faculty.

"The interpretation of Quranic verses by using illustrative drawings is banned in Islam and cannot be sanctioned by Islamic teachings," Faidallah told a local daily.

"These sinister ideas are tantamount to criminal acts that ridicule the sanctity of the Holy Quran. It is an innovation that should be condemned," he added.

Le Monde, a French publishing house has started printing the first part of the book in Arabic and French, designed for youngsters aged between 12 and 16.

"We don't rule out the possibility of anti-Islamic groups being behind, and financing such sinister schemes," Faidallah said.

He branded Siddiqi "a new Salman Rushdie recruited to carry out this ugly task."

Plans to set up centre for addicts

Psychiatric Hospital fighting hard to eradicate social evils

THE following is a report on an interview conducted by a local daily with Dr Abdurahman Al Asfour, director of Kuwait's Psychiatric Hospital to highlight the ramifications of the drug issue.

Asfour said that the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) has recently begun a study aimed at setting up of an integrated centre for treating drugs and alcohol addicts in Kuwait.

The centre is envisaged to be constructed within a period of two years and funding for the project is being donated by several benevolent within the country.

Commenting on the comprehensive campaign for the eradication of drugs, the official said that the Psychiatric Hospital is going ahead with its programme to fight this social and health evil.

Speaking of the volume of this phenomenon in Kuwait, the official said that it has been around for quite some time and the MPH had allocated an integrated ward in 1981 for treating addicts. In 1985, a specialised centre had been established and had been expanded in 1988.

Disclosing statistics from the hospital's files, Asfour said that he had received about 783 cases in 1983, 2,139 in 1984, 3,111 in 1985 and 3,511 in 1986, 4,871 in 1987 and 8,557 cases in 1988. The Addiction Treatment Services Centre involved about 1,200 files of addicts — 90 per cent of these being Kuwaiti addicts.

Treatment had resulted in 15 per cent of cases obtaining permanent cures, while the remainder had varying levels of success. Commenting he said that international statistics indicated that 70 per cent of treated addicts

cases were known to resume the habit while in Kuwait this percentage amounted to 85 per cent.

However, he commented that these statistics do not actually represent the actual number of drug cases in Kuwait. For several reasons many drug addiction cases go unreported and it is thus not feasible to truly judge the number of drug addicts in Kuwait, the official explained.

Drugs do take a very heavy toll of life, personal misfortunes, family break-ups, marital problems and of late been the cause of 30 per cent of all deaths. Additionally, drugs cause several health complications and diseases such as tumours, blood vessels diseases, nervous breakdowns, digestive problems, hallucinations and a loss of reality.

Giving a back-drop on the categories of addicts, the official said that they could be divided into four levels. Those between the ages of 30 to 40 were mostly addicted to alcohol. Those between the ages of 18 to 28 were frequent users of narcotic pills. The third were mostly hashish and opium addicts and came from a cross-section of ages. The fourth, an off-shoot of the drug scene are the most unfortunate — addicts ranging between the ages of 12 to 19 who mostly take butex and benz.

He disclosed that addiction centres do not take in addicts under 16 years of age. These cases are transferred to paediatric wards at the hospital to receive necessary treatment.

Meanwhile, the official said that the addiction centre had recently formed a committee to study, evaluate, and set up necessary measures to address the problem. In this res-

I AM a Filipino, presently working here in Kuwait as a domestic helper. I have a friend in the US who owns a home for the aged and retarded persons. She is hiring an employee and wanted to help me going there to work with her. Is there a possibility for me to go to the US and work there? Can I cross country? I mean, instead of going to the Philippines, can I proceed to the US from Kuwait?

Ali Baba

THERE is no legal problem to leave Kuwait and go to any other place, provided you hold a valid visa to enter the country you are going to. If you hold a visa and a ticket, you can proceed to the US instead of going to the Philippines.

If the sponsor agrees to pay the price of the air ticket to the Philippines, then the difference in the ticket for the US must be borne by you.

Your departure also depends on the contract period, how long you have worked and whether or not you have completed the contract. If you have, you can ask your employer to cancel your visa and then plan your departure to the US.

(Arab Times regrets to inform readers that individual replies cannot be given).

I'VE been working here in Kuwait for more than four years. I've been working for the same employer because they have been very kind to me. For some reasons, we are now having a misunderstanding.

We are only human beings and we can decide what we want to do by our personal life. As long as I do my duty and fulfill my obligations to my employer, I think I should be allowed to have some privacy and make personal decisions.

Do I commit an offence, or break any law, by falling in love with someone. I don't think I am wrong; my family is not against my decision.

If I find another employer who is willing to give me a new visa, do I have the right to leave my present employer without any problem?

Raina

IN case you have completed your two year contract, and this has not been renewed, you can ask your present employer for a release. If the release is given, it means they agree to your leaving. If they don't give the release, you won't be able to transfer to another employer. If you are happy with the present employer, we suggest you talk to him/her and explain your problem. They seem to be nice people and may understand your difficulty.

I ARRIVED from the Philippines in October, 1989 and work as a housemaid. I am very unlucky as my employers do not have a good attitude towards me. I did not get any salary to enable me to repay the balance of 6,000 pesos to the agency in Manila. If I had been paid, I could have forwarded the money to them. Can you help me find another employer?

Simplicia

WE regret to inform you that we cannot help you to find an employer. This must be done by the individual seeking a job. We would like to inform you that a person on a contract who has agreed to work for a certain number of years cannot leave the employer without completing the contract. As you have worked for only two months, your employers would be reluctant to give a release letter. This means that you can't transfer your residence to another employer's name. If your employer is willing to release you, and have no objection to your working elsewhere in

Kuwait, you can find another job. If not, we regret to tell you that you'll have to continue to work with the same sponsor. However, you can approach your embassy and seek their help to get you to get your salary.

I WOULD like to ask if there is a specific clause in the Kuwait traffic law saying that only members of the Kuwait Society of Engineers are eligible for a driving licence. For almost four years, I have been working as an engineer in Kuwait and have been unable to change my driving licence to a Kuwaiti one. Each time I apply, they ask for membership with the society of engineers, who have kept my application pending for more than a year. I have all the documents to prove that I am a bona fide engineer, endorsed by my embassy.

Ali Usman

THE Ministry of Interior rules that the traffic law cover the issuance of driving licences and traffic rules. The Traffic Law, articles 85 to 100 and 105 state the terms and condition of obtaining a driving licence. There is no mention in the law that one has to be a member of the engineering society to apply for a licence.

To our knowledge, there is no clause in the ministry's rules that makes it mandatory for engineers to be members of the society to obtain driving licences.

Perhaps, you could approach the general traffic department in Shuwaikh and enquire for a licence. May be, you'll have better luck next time.

I WAS employed as a driver in a private company in Kuwait. I came on Sept 25, 1987, on visa No. 18.

Unfortunately, I was confused at the traffic lights and was caught crossing a red signal and my licence was suspended for a month.

1. Please tell me the court procedure. Is there a fine and imprisonment? 2. If my employer terminates my contract for this reason, can I take my release to find another job? If the company does not release me, can I complain to the labour office? 3. Am I covered by the three years service contract, as stated in the new labour law of March 1989?

Benjie Castro

AFTER a licence is suspended for a traffic offence, the case is referred by the traffic department to the court, and it is advisable to follow it up.

When a case is in court, a summons is sent, and if the address is not traceable, the judgement will be passed in absentia.

It is preferable to follow up the case to get the hearing date, and advisable to appoint a lawyer.

Such an offence, according to Article 34 of the Traffic Law, Clause "A," mentions that the judgement could be one month imprisonment and KD50 fine; any one of the two punishments, or both.

2. No, as you have been employed for only two years, you don't have the right to get the release. The reason for not paying the benefits depends on the severity of the offence. Private Sector Labour Law, Article 55 states that an employer has the right to terminate the employee without paying his benefits if an employee has committed a "serious" mistake.

It is up to the court to decide whether the reason for firing can be defined as a "serious" mistake, and the reason for firing construed as endangering.

Bahrain Digest

Hope for better Indo-Bangla ties

INDIA and Bangladesh may finally resolve their existing longstanding problems with each other this year. The prospect of settlement of some disputes between the two neighbours appear brighter during the course of 1990, particularly with a new government in India under Prime Minister V.P. Singh, according to Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

Bangladesh foreign minister, who just concluded a three-day official visit to Bahrain, told the Arab Times that the Bangladeshi government is more optimistic than ever this year to bury some thorny issues with its giant neighbour.

The Farmland issue has long been a major obstacle in the path of improving bilateral relationship between the two South Asian countries. Bangladesh, since its birth in 1971, has been claiming its 'legitimate right' to share the Ganges water which flows through its soil from India. The small Islamic country, initiator of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, relies heavily on the Ganges water particularly during drought periods for its cash crops. Relationship between the two countries deteriorated somewhat in recent years following dispute concerning ownership of some islands in the Bay of Bengal. Tribal insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tract district in Bangladesh over regional autonomy peaked in recent times, leading to mass exodus of tribal people from their homeland to India. Bangladesh has called for the return of all its tribal refugees from India promising a degree of autonomy, solution of various grievances and personal safety. India claims that the tribal people are persecuted by the Bangladeshi army and refuse to go back. However, a number of refugees have come back recently.

"We feel the Government of V.P. Singh will be more sympathetic in settling these problems once and for all this year. We are optimistic about the chances of a successful mediation between our countries this time," said Mahmud.

The Bangladeshi foreign minister reiterated his country's foreign policy of non-alignment and friendship with all countries. He said Bangladesh maintains good relationship with India despite the existing problems.

Meanwhile, Mahmud praised the role of Bangladeshi expatriates in the Gulf in particular and elsewhere in general in contributing to the economic development of their country. He said that Bangladeshi workforce worldwide contributed \$1 billion in remittance to their homeland every year — the sum constitutes the largest foreign exchange source for the country.

Bangladesh is one of the world's largest recipient of foreign aid (\$2.1 billion annual average) as it faces a host of natural calamities each year.

REQUIRED

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- 1- University degree in accounts.
- 2- Experience with trading companies for 7 years including at least three years as a chief accountant preferably in Kuwait.
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Applicants should write to the managing director — P.O. Box 4090 Code 13041 Safat — Kuwait with supporting documents and recent personal photograph.

Application will be treated confidentially.
Final day for applications acceptance is Wed, 31.01.90

MHE to ban scholarships for British universities

A PRESS report said yesterday that the Ministry of Higher Education is studying plans to ban scholarship students from entering several universities in Britain.

The plans, a local daily said, were introduced after the appearance of "wave of degrees" from Britain which raises questions of their credibility.

Quoting sources from the ministry, the paper said a university report on scholarship students to Britain described as "weak" the performance of the students but after a short period another report highly appreciated the students' work in the universities.

Meanwhile, Kuwait University has alerted some of its students in Britain to move to other universities after reassessment of the academic level of these universities.

The steps of the Higher Education Ministry and Kuwait University were the first in Britain but followed similar actions against American universities.

Scholarship students, or even private students who ask the ministry to supervise their study in the United States have to refer to a list of recommended American colleges in various specialties.

The list is prepared by the cultural division at the Embassy of Kuwait in Washington, DC and a selection of a university from outside the list will result in denying the scholarship from the student after a period of warning.

The action was taken to ensure the best education for Kuwaiti students abroad and to control admission procedures for students.

Oman relaxes residence law

(Continued from Page 1)

families along with them.

Ship crews calling at Oman can now spend their "port of call" days in Oman cities and stay at hotels.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead — Bertrand Russell, British philosopher (1872-1970).

Blockade controversy

US-Colombian tensions worsen

BOGOTA, (Reuters): Washington's plan to deploy warships off this country's coast for drug interdiction has worsened US-Colombian tensions weeks before a high-profile drug summit here.

US officials say the plan has been placed on hold because of fierce opposition in Colombia.

But the damage has already been done as what is seen here as US muscle-flexing in Latin America has added to regional tensions as President George Bush prepares for a drug summit with Latin American leaders in Colombia next month.

Critics have described the Bush administration's handling of the drug interdiction plan, which involved stationing a naval flotilla in international waters off Colombia's Caribbean coast, as a classic public relations blunder.

The timing, critics say, could not have been worse, given the sharp criticism in Colombia and other Latin American countries of the US invasion of Panama.

Blockade

Press leaks about the warship deployment — with some reports calling it a "blockade" — left Colombian authorities so irritated that they refused to meet with a US team despatched here last week to explain the Navy plan, according to published reports both here and in Washington.

Underscoring US-Colombian tensions, government and US embassy spokesmen here said on Wednesday the two countries have had no formal contacts to discuss the US military's proposed involvement in the war on drugs. Foreign Minister Julio Londoño Paredes said no such contacts were expected soon.

"So far, we don't foresee any special contact in that respect," Londoño said in an interview with Colombia's RCN radio station.

A senior government official said on Tuesday that Bush had been expected to telephone Colombian President Virgilio Barco to discuss the controversy. The official said, however, that the call never came through.

Warships

US officials have said that the plan to deploy warships off the Colombian coast will not go into effect without the consent of the Colombian government.

The current climate in Bogota, which some political analysts attribute to nationalistic and anti-American posturing ahead of May presidential elections, would appear to put the deployment on hold indefinitely.

Londoño has said that Colombia will never permit the interception of Colombia-flagged vessels on the high seas, much less in its territorial waters.

The United States and Colombia were drawn together as allies after President Virgilio Barco declared war last August on the international drug trade, notably the Colombian-based cocaine cartels.

Since then, however, thorny economic issues coupled with Washington's failure to deliver on promised trade and economic aid to support the drug war, have drawn the two nations apart.

Promise

One promise Bush made last September was to help revive international support prices for coffee, Colombia's largest legal export.

But efforts to revive the price supports, which collapsed last year, have run into difficulties. And Bush's pledge to obtain lower duties on Colombian exports appeared contradicted by last month's announcement that the United States was considering doubling duties on Colombian cut flowers.

Washington approved \$65 million in US military assistance to Colombia after it began its crackdown on drug lords five months ago. Bush's long-term anti-drug programme will provide Colombia, Peru and Bolivia with \$261 million in aid in 1990 and \$2 billion over the next five years.

The Colombian government has publicly expressed thanks for the aid, though it flatly rejected Bush's offer to send US combat troops into Colombia.

Aid

The Colombian media has repeatedly criticised the aid as patrly, however, and noted that the United States has spent far more bankrolling the fight against Marxist-led rebels in El Salvador than it has on the battle against Colombia's billionaire drug barons — purveyors of 80 per cent of the cocaine shipped to the United States.

A factor sure to add to the friction at next month's drug summit in the Caribbean city of Cartagena is the feeling many Colombians have about Washington's role in the drug war.

People here, including many government and military officials, say they are suffering on the front line of the war while Washington givers from the sidelines but fails to curb drug consumption in its own backyard.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1419 — English force captures French city of Rouen.

1559 — Coronation of Elizabeth I of England.

1759 — Marquis of Tavora and his wife are executed in Portugal.

1813 — British fleet blockades Chesapeake and Delaware Bays in United States during war of 1812.

1822 — Liberal constitution is adopted in Greece.

1849 — Sikhs are defeated at Chillianwala in India, but British suffer heavy casualties.

1886 — Lagos becomes separate British colony from Nigeria.

1915 — South African troops occupy Swakopmund in German South-West Africa; earthquake in central Italy kills 30,000 people.

1935 — Saar votes to return to Germany after being administered by France under League of Nations supervision.

1945 — Soviet forces begin offensive in Silesia, Germany, in World War II.

1959 — Belgium grants reforms in Belgian Congo following disturbances.

1963 — Togo's President Sylvanus Olympio is murdered as insurgents take control.

1967 — Military officers in West African Republic of Togo seize power in bloodless coup.

1972 — Group of junior officers overthrows civilian government of Ghana in West Africa.

1986 — State-run radio reports that South Yemen's President Ali Nasser Mohammed has survived assassination attempt and the leaders of a abortive coup have been executed.

1987 — Employee of Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is charged with setting New Year's Eve fire that killed 96 people and injured more than 140 others.

1988 — Nationalist China's President Chiang Ching-Kuo dies of heart attack at age 77.

1989 — Polish communist leaders said to be ready to offer legalisation to Solidarity — the banned trade union.

Baker losing interest in Palestine

Election plan in jeopardy

WASHINGTON, (Kuna): Secretary of State James Baker's "inner cabinet" aides are quietly sending the word out to those who are willing to listen: the secretary is just starting to lose interest in the election plan for the occupied territories and unless the parties concerned — Israelis and Palestinians — show some signs of compromise, he might give up his mediation efforts and concentrate his energy on other regions of the world instead.

Under "normal" circumstances, the two parties involved might very well come crawling back to Washington with oew "give ideas" that might very well break the stalemate. But the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis is not "normal" and therefore — for entirely different reasons — both the Palestinians and the Israelis might very well allow Secretary Baker to pack it up and shift his efforts to other regions of the world.

After all, how many American peace initiatives have gone by the wayside in this same way over the last couple of decades — the latest was the Shultz peace initiative of 1987.

There seems to be a co-conviction on both sides that they had gone as far as they can in terms of concessions when they submitted their separate response to Baker's five-point proposals calling for the opening of an Egyptian-Israeli-American dialogue that will lead to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Not so, says Washington: There must be more "give," especially from Israel, if the stalemate is to be broken.

The Israelis say that they will be ready to take part in the proposed negotiations with the Palestinians only within the framework of the so-called six "assurances" that they attached to their "acceptance in principle" of the Baker proposals. The Palestinians, working through the Egyptians, also argue along the same line.

However, Baker's top aides involved in the nitty-gritty mid-level negotiations, led by policy planning director Dennis Ross, among others, insist the concessions made on both sides are simply not enough to get the dialogue going.

Their conclusions are based on closed meetings they held in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's envoy, Eli Rubenstein, and the Egyptian Ambassador to Washington Abdul Raouf Al Reedy in December.

As if to underscore this point, the expected tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the US — originally scheduled for early January in Washington — never materialised, with State Department officials saying if the talks are to take place at all, they will not be held before the end of February or even before early March.

The planners of Baker's schedule fitted in a Moscow and East Europe trip during February only after they realised that the progress in the Middle East peace talks was not enough to warrant scheduling a definite date for the tripartite meeting. They told Baker the points of disagreement have been narrowed down but not enough to guarantee success.

Of course, some of Baker's aides would say that the secretary got diverted from the Middle East peace process by much bigger events in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, the Panama invasion and the February elections in Nicaragua. "Central America is always more of a top priority for an American secretary of state than the Middle East."

No one is ready to admit also that the secretary and his top aides can handle only that many crises in one month. But, perhaps more significantly, no State Department official is willing to go on record to say that the astute politician, Jim Baker, will not stick his neck out and jeopardize his political future (and possible presidential aspirations) by failing in the Middle East if he senses he is unable to pull it off at the end.

That is one reason why Baker's aides, after wrangling with the minute issues for weeks, were putting out Baker's last card on the table: compromise, agree or else we will lift our hands off the Middle East. They insist, however, that this stage has not yet been reached.

State Department insiders say that patience started running out with Israel in Washington just after the Weizman-Shamir rift last week.

As understood by top administration officials, the way the hardline Shamir manoeuvred his inner cabinet conflict with Weizman, managing to come out on top, had as much to do with internal Israeli politics as it had with sending a message to Washington.

Officials believe the Likud leader and Israeli prime minister was indirectly sending the word to Baker that he (Shamir) was serious and adamant in refusing to allow any role for the PLO.

He also wanted to show Washington that he is still firmly in control of the Israeli government and that the Labour Party, which the Bush administration strongly supports, did not have enough votes to break the coalition government and win new elections.

The irony of all these manoeuvres, according to State Department officials, is that despite appearances to the contrary, slight progress has been made in



James Baker

recent weeks in the intense but secret negotiations with both sides. As one mid-level State Department official commented, "we have left process and are now into substance..."

For example, these officials believe that they are on the way to solving the two main obstacles that have blocked the progress in the negotiations: the question of representation; and the issue of the agenda of the proposed talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

The officials say more progress has been made in private than exposed in public statements by all sides. New formulas have been introduced, they say — without divulging any details — that seem to be more acceptable to both sides.

Talks with Eli Rubenstein and with other Israeli officials since have convinced these State Department officials that Israel might now be ready to accept having Palestinian "deputies" taking part in the Palestinian delegation (as the PLO has insisted).

The assumption is that these deportees will all be known as the PLO's men in the occupied territories but they will have "an alternative address" according to the State Department formula — a device they hope would allow the Israelis to claim they have conceded nothing while the PLO at the same time can claim that its representatives are on the official delegations.

They also believe that the question of the "visibility" or "invisibility" of the PLO in the proposed dialogue might be worked out in the coming few weeks.

One idea being debated is for the unified leadership of the intifada to announce the names of the Palestinians' representatives at the talks in one of their regular pamphlets — the assumption being that everyone knows the leadership is all composed of PLO members. But Israel can still claim the unified leadership is composed of members from inside the occupied territories only.

Faced with all these challenges, few can now accuse the PLO leadership of inconsistency. The PLO Executive Committee, the Central Council, and other bodies together with statements made by various top PLO officials have shown unanimity on the key issues being tossed around in this Middle Eastern tumble-dryer.

But whatever the arguments used back and forth in the ever-shifting sands of the Middle East, there are clear signs that the Egyptians are now adopting more of a back seat and, as one official put it recently, "we are trying to get ahead of anyone at this stage."

Based on discussions with Egyptian officials in recent days, it appears the Egyptian government is irritated with the reaction of both Israel and the Palestinians to its own mediating role in recent weeks.

The Cairo government believes that the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has snubbed Egypt and embarrassed President Hosni Mubarak by taking such a negative stand towards his 10-point proposals. The Likud government obviously does not want to hand Mubarak a victory on a golden platter for his mediating role, giving further proof of its lack of interest in reaching a peaceful settlement in the region.

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According to Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Atul Seth, in his briefing Wednesday on the talks with Sattar, "Prime Minister Mr V.P. Singh indicated that India would appreciate (it) if these concerns (on Kashmir) are addressed as such things can become difficult to manage if allowed to grow."

Seth did not elaborate.

"It is embroidery by the media, but there may be signs of the embroidery being instigated or encouraged from outside," the diplomat said.

And what did he mean by the outside, he was asked.

"From within the government," he responded.

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INTERNATIONAL

Secession offer fails to placate Lithuanians

Gorby pledges law setting terms for republics to quit

VILNIUS, Soviet Union, Jan 12, (Reuter): President Mikhail Gorbachev appealed to Lithuanians for dialogue not confrontation today after a nationalist leader accused him of perpetrating a 'cheap lie' on the secession issue.

"Some people demand 'liberty and independence' for Lithuania but this is like a game, you know," Gorbachev said in a speech to workers in Siauliai, the Lithuanian capital.

Gorbachev travelled to the Baltic republic after its Communist Party broke with the Soviet party and the secessionist movement grew more restless.

In an hour-long speech to Lithuanian intellectuals late yesterday, he said he was for 'self-determination up to the point of secession.'

But Vytautas Landsbergis, head of the powerful pro-independence Sajudis movement, dismissed Gorbachev's pledge to draft a law giving the once-independent republic the right to secede from the Soviet Union.

"This is a cheap lie, it's a lie for naive people in the west," said Landsbergis. "I wonder if it came from him or someone suggested it to him. It means other people will decide for us."

Referendum

The draft law, which Gorbachev said would be put to an unprecedented countrywide referendum, was a just 'vague promise designed to save time,' said Algimantas Cekulius, a senior member of the Lithuanian Communist Party.

A legal expert in the Soviet Parliament in Moscow, also dampened speculation of an imminent break-up in the Soviet Union, saying the law would be concerned more with regulating relations between its member republics than with secession.

Gorbachev, faced with an explosion of secessionist feeling on the first day of his three-day trip to the republic, travelled today to Siauliai, a city 200 km (120 miles) northwest of the capital which is home to a big military airfield local activists want closed.

"I am for self-determination up to the point of secession," said Gorbachev in a dictated, hour-long speech to Lithuanian intellectuals late yesterday.

"In this connection 'instructions' have been issued to work out a draft law providing for a mechanism for repartitioning the Soviet Union," Gorbachev said.

"These are vague promises which seemed to me designed to gain time," said Cekulius, a local newspaper editor and member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee.

"This could all be interesting only if it were followed up by practical steps, such as demilitarisation, with the withdrawal of 'troops' from the Baltic states and so on."

Gorbachev couched his remarks with repeated appeals to Lithuanians not to try to break with Moscow, saying the party to political, social and economic independence was through continued membership of the Soviet Union.

"Today I am your friend, but if you take the other path I shall do everything to show you that you are leading your people to a dead end," he warned.

A spokeswoman for Sajudis said that Lithuania's incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940 had been illegal and "there should not be a law on secession because Lithuania never entered the Soviet Union."

She predicted the right of referendum recently added to the Lithuanian constitution would be used soon to hold a plebiscite on remaining within the Soviet Union. Its timing would depend on the Lithuanian Parliament, due to be elected next month as part of a series of republican elections across the Soviet Union.

Albert Grigoryants, a legal expert at the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Parliament, said it would be "wrong to call the new law a law on secession," pointing out that the formal right to secede had long been the Soviet constitution.

"Secession is just one of the many variants of the solution of the question," Grigoryants said. "The main thing is drawing up new relations between the centre and the republics."

He also stressed, without giving more details, that any decision on secession should take into account not only the will of the republic concerned, but also the interests of the outer Soviet republics.

Support Latvia, parliament expressed support for Lithuanian independence and for the course followed by its ruling Communist Party.

The Latvian Supreme Soviet, as the supreme body of power of a sovereign state, expresses its support for the consistent course of its neighbour — Lithuania — towards independence," Latvian Radio said.

The Latvian Supreme Soviet expresses its solidarity with the people of Lithuania."

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were incorporated into the Soviet Union after a 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact.

In another development the Armenian parliament, angry at continued Azerbaijani control of disputed Nagorno-Karabakh, defied the Kremlin yesterday by voting itself the right to veto Soviet laws.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijani protesters blockaded government offices and seized a radio station in a Caspian Sea port while Georgians demanding independence drove government officials from their offices in the Caucasus, reports said today.

Protesters in the Azerbaijani city of Lenkoran were venting their anger over an Armenian parliamentary measure that implied possession of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, said Saveli Perez, deputy director of the republic's official news agency Azerinform.



Gorbachev talks with Lithuanians at Lenin Square. (Reuter wirephoto)



Thousands of Lithuanians raising flags and banners gather in central Vilnius. (Reuter wirephoto)

Secret police plan ditched

Modrow bows to pressure

EAST BERLIN, Jan 12, (AP): East Germany's communist premier announced today he was scrapping plans to form a new secret police force before planned elections May 6.

Premier Hans Modrow announced his decision to Parliament. It came amid mounting criticism from non-communist parties in his coalition government and opposition groups who feared the new force would be used by communists to harass political opponents before the promised free elections.

"Through May 6, no offices will be created in this area," Modrow said in reference to the disputed plans.

Opposition leaders had said decisions on the sensitive issue of internal security should await a democratically elected government. They threatened to break off talks with the communists on reforms following the peaceful revolution that has overhauled East German society.

Modrow already has said the old security police, hated for its repression during decades of hard-line communist rule, was being disbanded. But non-communist coalition partners threatened to leave the government unless Modrow provided proof the unit was dissolved.

Parliament continued a two-day session today by discussing the threats to break up the ruling coalition.

Parliament speaker Guenter

Maleuda criticised a protest outside the chamber building last night by thousands of people calling for the ouster of the communists who pulled down East German flags.

Maleuda claimed the protest disturbed the lawmakers' work inside the building.

As the lawmakers met today morning, more than 200 East Berlin taxi drivers drove in a caravan to the parliament building, honking their horns to show displeasure with the government.

The taxi drivers were demanding equal opportunities for opposition groups in the May elections and demanded the abolition of the state-run Labour Union Federation.

An independent trade union movement threatened a nationwide strike because of the lingering dispute over the secret police.

Yesterday's disclosure that the key figure in an East German financial scandal had been a high-ranking secret police officer was likely to inflame the controversy.

Modrow yesterday offered the opposition an unspecified government role but also claimed the country needed an internal security force to guard against alleged dangers from neo-Nazis, drug traffickers and others.

His reversal of position today came as a surprise, despite the threat from three of the four non-communist coalition partners to

leave the government. Modrow said yesterday he believed coalition government would hold until the May elections, but indicated "compelling reasons" could force a breakup.

In West Berlin, a prosecutor disclosed that Alexander Schalck-Golodowski, the former government official involved in the financial scandal, was a colonel in the East German secret police.

Schalck-Golodowski is wanted in East Germany on charges of embezzlement after reportedly absconding with tens of millions of marks (tens of millions of dollars) that ended up in Swiss bank accounts.

He had been the government's chief foreign trader, and the official in charge of bringing in badly needed Western currency.

East Germans are likely to seize on the prosecutor's disclosure as further proof of the dominant role the secret police had throughout East German society.

A West Berlin prosecutor has refused to extradite Schalck-Golodowski to East Germany, where treason charges and a death sentence are a possibility.

Schalck-Golodowski, who also allegedly ran a ring selling weapons to countries in Africa, South America and the Middle East, turned himself in to West Berlin authorities on Dec 6 and was freed on Tuesday.

occasions but things were completely different this time," he said. "The whole matter has been fanned out to the private sector, presumably to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit."

Flemmings said the issue was handled by a travel agency set up by private Soviet citizens, who also obtained permission from the KGB, as the expedition will be passing close to Arctic military installations.

The Siberian route is 900 nautical miles from the North Pole, actually 100 miles more distant than the Canadian route, but Flemmings expects the ice pack to be neutral at least, unlike the pack on the Canadian side where it was against him in the past.

"It certainly can't be more difficult than on the Canadian side," he said.

The difficulties will include dragging 160 kilos (360

N-winter would be worse

WASHINGTON, Jan 12, (AP): The scientists who first posed the "nuclear winter" theory say a new study concludes the aftermath of an atomic war would be even worse than previously believed.

R.P. Turco, co-author of a study appearing today in *Science* magazine, said the study shows there's a "modest exchange" of nuclear weapons could so fill the sky with smoke and soot that agriculture would be virtually wiped out for one season and could be severely affected the second year after such a war.

Starvation would be widespread, he said, even in Third World nations that are not likely to be hit by bombs.

"It looks like most of the human population would be in jeopardy from a nuclear exchange," Turco said in an interview. "The basic physical

principals have been confirmed by detailed research in the five years since we first proposed the theory."

The new findings concentrate on changes in rainfall patterns, on the effects of black soot arising from atomic bomb-ignited fires and on the creation of a vast ozone hole over the northern hemisphere.

Turco said the study assumes that in even a small nuclear exchange the primary target would be oil and gas storage areas because such material is vital to military defence. He said igniting those stores alone would put enough soot into the atmosphere to block the sun and, even in July, cause widespread freezing and destroy food crops for the year.

"We need agriculture every year," he said. "Millions and millions would die."

Smoke would eventually dim the sun all over the

globe, reducing solar intensities on a hemispheric scale by up to 50 per cent, the study estimates.

Turco said the new studies also suggest that smoke in the upper atmosphere would "cook away" up to 50 per cent of the normal ozone layer, creating an ozone hole over much of the northern hemisphere.

This, he said, would further cripple agriculture because of the effect of intense ultraviolet rays on plants. Ozone normally shields the earth from high levels of ultraviolet radiation.

"This could be extremely significant and is something that hasn't been considered before," Turco said.

Turco said the new studies also suggest the nuclear exchange would disrupt normal rainfall patterns.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Zhivkov likely to be tried: A member of a parliamentary commission investigating alleged crimes by Todor Zhivkov said Thursday that the ousted hardline communist leader is likely to be tried for abuse of power, fraud and human rights violations.

But Petar Beron said the investigations might stop short of unearthing details of possible irregularities by communists still involved in government. (AP)

Panther eludes dragnet: Demands for controls over ownership of "exotic" animals escalated Thursday after a mysterious black panther eluded a dragnet on the outskirts of Rome.

Newspapers published grainy photos of a black animal roaming in a wooded area Wednesday in what they said was at least the eighth sighting of the panther since Dec. 27. (AP)

Police seize porno videos: Police raided a British crematorium on Thursday and seized pornographic video cassettes that were being hired out before funerals.

Police swooped down on the Chapel of Rest at the Robin Hood Crematorium on the outskirts of Birmingham in central England after a tip-off that sex videos were being rented out. (Reuter)

Confer in secret: Investigators and government law officers probing the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 conferred in secret all day Wednesday and said nothing publicly about their talks.

The seven-hour meeting in Lockerbie was the fifth in a series attended by personnel from the United States, Britain, West Germany, Sweden and Malta to assess world-wide progress in the hunt for the bombers. (AP)

Bomb hoax calls soars: The number of hoax bomb threats received by British airports and airlines has soared since the blowing up of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, killing 270 a year ago, it was reported on London on Thursday.

British Transport Secretary Cecil Parkinson told the House of Commons last night that the number of boxes had more than doubled in the 12 months since the Lockerbie disaster, which was described as "a sad reflection on some sick minds." (Kuna)

Sinn Fein man in court: A top official of Sinn Fein, the legal political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, appeared in court today charged with involvement in an abduction and planned murder.

Danny Morrison, 36, vice-president of Sinn Fein, and four other men were ordered held until a Jan 26 court appearance.

Morrison, arrested Sunday, was charged with conspiracy to murder Alexander Joseph Lynch and with unlawfully and injuriously imprisoning him for three days. (AP)

Moscow reveals data of nuke: Moscow has admitted that one of its plutonium-powered nuclear submarines sank last year in deep waters off Norway, Norwegian experts said Friday.

Johan Saari, of Norway's Institute for Radiation Hygiene, said Moscow had responded to a Norwegian request and revealed that the sub's reactor contains 2 kilogrammes (4.4 pounds) of radioactive plutonium 239, plus the nuclear fuels strontium 90 and cesium 137. (AP)

Sweden to establish: Sweden, hit in recent years by increased terrorist activity and the murder of its prime minister, has included a new anti-terrorist police unit in the 1990-91 state budget proposed on Wednesday.

The government, anxious to allay fears that a paramilitary force could be a step towards a police state, stressed that the unit would be deployed only on its direct orders. (Reuter)

Okello dies in exile: General Basilio Okello, who controlled the Ugandan government for six months in 1985, has died in exile in Sudan aged 72, relatives said on Thursday.

Okello was wanted by the present government of President Yoweri Museveni, which accused him of atrocities committed during his time in power, including many extra-judicial killings.

Okello led the troops from northern Uganda which ousted President Milton Obote in July 1985. (Reuter)

Berto dies of cancer: Juliette Berto, the leading lady of director Jean-Luc Godard in a host of avant-garde films including "Weekend" and "Le Chinoise," has died of cancer, family friends said Thursday. She was 42.

Made famous by "Weekend," Godard's 1966 classic about a group of people taking to the roads to escape Paris, Miss Berto eventually turned her back on the star system that had produced celebrities such as Brigitte Bardot and Jean Seberg.

She went on to a successful career directing movies, including "Neige" (snow), a 1981 documentary-drama about drug trafficking in the seedy Pigalle district of Paris. (AP)

Kushner dies of breast cancer: Rose Kushner, a medical writer and psychologist and forceful advocate for women with breast cancer, has died of the disease at age 60, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Kushner, who resided in Kensington, Maryland, died Sunday, the New York Times reported. (AP)

Martin Newman dies: Martin H. Newman, retired president of Century Theatres and executive director of the Will Rogers Institute, has died at age 76.

Newman, who lived in Manhattan, died Monday at New York Hospital from an undisclosed illness.

He worked for Century Theatres for nearly four decades, retiring as president in 1974. (AP)

Wheeler dead at 84: Lyle Wheeler, a leading artistic force in Hollywood's golden age who won five Oscars for such classics as "Gone With the Wind," "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "Anna and the King of Siam," died at 84.

Wheeler died Wednesday at the motion picture country home and hospital in Woodland Hills.

Wheeler was recognized as the dean of art directors from the late 1930s through the 1950s. Wheeler was nominated for the Academy Award on 24 other occasions. (AP)

Dies in his sleep: Dred Middleton, a reporter who covered World War II and post-war Europe for the New York Times and later became the newspaper's military correspondent, has died. He was 76.

Middleton died late Wednesday in his sleep at his apartment in New York City, the newspaper said in its Friday editions. The cause of his death was not immediately known, the Times said. (AP)

Save rainforests

US may stop arms flow to Afghan rebels

WASHINGTON, Jan 12. (Agencies): The US quickly has begun a reassessment of its policy toward Afghanistan that could result in an eventual cutoff of arms to the US-backed rebels and a greater role in settling the conflict for the rebels.

The review, disclosed by the Washington Times, is the first signal that Washington might switch tactics following the failure of US-backed mujahideen rebels to make significant military gains since the withdrawal of Soviet troops nearly a year ago and an escalation in the rebels' internecine fighting.

Undersecretary of State Robert Kimball leaves tomorrow for a weeklong trip to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India to discuss the Afghan situation and other issues, the State Department said.

In Pakistan, Kimball is meeting with exiled leaders of Afghan rebel groups. He will also hold talks with the Pakistani leadership. The United States funnels about \$600 million worth of weapons through Pakistan to the rebels, known as mujahideen.

In Saudi Arabia, Kimball will discuss with officials how best to help the rebels, a US

official said.

Almost a year after the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, the rebels have defied US predictions they would overthrow the government of President Najibullah. They have made some gains in the countryside but cities remain in the hands of government forces.

The government, on the other hand, has been unable to consolidate its power throughout the country, despite what US officials claim are massive infusions of Soviet arms.

The United States insists it will keep back-

ing the rebels until Najibullah, installed during the nine-year Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, steps down and allows free elections.

But the mujahideen's military failure, coupled with infighting among factions of the rebel coalition, is raising concern in Washington.

"We're taking a fresh look," said one US official. "Policy must always reflect changing circumstances," he added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"I'm glad the Bush administration is reassessing our effort," said Sen. Gordie Hum-

phrey, a strong ally of the mujahideen. "Our policy has been on auto-pilot since the end of the Reagan administration."

US tactics toward the mujahideen must change to fit the changed situation on the ground following the Soviet pullout, including new training and a different mix of weapons, he said.

The United States should also demand that the Pakistani secret service, which distributes US weapons, stop playing the different Afghan groups off against each other and provide them with their fair share of weapons.



Arafat (left) and Egyptian President Mubarak in a joyful mood meet at presidential palace in Cairo. (Reuter wirephoto)

Syria pledges to talk withdrawal timetable

Aoun supporters occupy Lebanese mission in Paris

WASHINGTON, Jan 12. (Agencies): Syria gave Saudi Arabia and other Arab states an unpublicized written pledge to negotiate a timetable for withdrawing all of its 40,000 troops from Lebanon, a leading US newspaper reported today.

The Washington Post's report was based on interviews with unidentified diplomatic sources in Damascus and other Arab capitals.

The paper reported that its sources said the secret commitment was signed by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra during an Oct 20 visit to Damascus by his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Faisal.

The paper said Syrian officials would not comment when asked about the secret pledge.

It said diplomats speculate that Syria fears disclosure would be widely viewed as a victory for Gen Michel Aoun, the Lebanese strongman who has marshaled Christian opposition to the Taif agreement on grounds it does not lay out a public timetable for withdrawal of the Syrian military from Lebanon.

Air traffic was halted at Beirut's international airport for 30 minutes tonight by a power cut, airport sources said.

Three flights were delayed taking off, affecting some 500 travellers.

"One plane landed but that was at the pilot's own responsibility. More than 100 passengers were on board," said an airport source.

The sources said the airport's own generator was out of order when public power was cut due to rationing, which results from civil war damage. After 30 minutes, the state electricity company restored power.

In a statement the group of supporters of Aoun occupied the Lebanese embassy to France yesterday to dramatise their opposition to diplomatic appointments made by Lebanon's Prime Minister Elias Hoss, organisers of the protest said.

In a statement the group of

Shiites reinforce frontlines

BEIRUT, Jan 12. (Agencies): Rival Shiite militias with machineguns and rockets and strengthened battle-lines in south Lebanon today, spurning Iranian mediation efforts to end their three-week-old war.

Security sources said Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal militia appeared poised for a major escalation of the fighting in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

Both sides sent in reinforcements and the rival groups were seen digging fresh trenches and building concrete and sand fortifications in the mountainous battle zone today, the sources said.

"The area is now the top of a volcano," one security source said yesterday. "In 48 hours a solution was not found to the political problems between them, a big explosion will take place in the south."

The inter-Shiite battles, which erupted on Dec 23, have killed at least 80 people, wounded 285, forced thousands to flee their homes and caused extensive damage.

The sources said commandos of PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah group also reinforced their positions in the contested area.

Some 600 Palestinian fighters deployed last week along a three km (two mile) front in Iqlim Al Tufah in

an attempt to separate the rival factions, vying for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shiites.

A Palestinian field commander warned Hezbollah yesterday that his men would return fire if attacked again. A Palestinian fighter was killed and seven were wounded when a mortar shell fired by Hezbollah hit a Palestinian position on Wednesday.

Hezbollah, trained, equipped and financed by Tehran, has had the upper hand in the fighting so far having seized five previously unoccupied villages in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, including Maroun Al-Asfar, the site of the bloody conflict by negotiation since arriving in Beirut on Sunday.

Political sources said he met Amal and Hezbollah officials at the Iranian embassy in Beirut yesterday but failed to break the deadlock as neither was prepared to make major concessions.

Hezbollah demanded guarantees that a peace pact signed last January with Amal would be implemented before they pull out.

Amal insists Hezbollah withdraws from all captured territory before talks and rejected an offer from the pro-Iranian militia to relinquish one captured village prior to negotiations.

More than 900 people have been killed in the almost two-year-old inter-Shiite conflict.

around 50 said they were

opposed to new ambassadors

Hoss announced for the United

States and some European

capitals on grounds the changes

amounted to a "campaign of destabilisation of the diplomatic corps" designed to make Lebanon "subservient" to Syria.

The protesters barricaded

themselves into the mission and

took over its switchboard.

Embassy employees did not call the

police, evidently hoping the

demonstrators would leave of

their own accord.

The Syrian-backed Hoss

announced new ambassadors for

Paris, London, Bern, Rome and

the UN yesterday. In Paris

ambassador Fouad Turk, widely

considered an independent min-

ded envoy, was ordered replaced by Johnny Abdo, formerly ambassador in Beirut.

British Ambassador Allan

John Ramsey appealed on Wed-

nesday for the release of all West-

ern hostages in Lebanon, saying the

kidnappers would reap no

benefit from the captives' protracted plight.

US cuts fund to FAO

WASHINGTON, Jan 12. (AP):

The United States has sharply

reduced its annual contribution to

a UN food agency that sup-

ported the PLO and warned it

might pull out of the world body

altogether, the State Department

said on Wednesday.

The United States has determined that for our calendar year 1989 it would pay the \$18 million

necessary to retain our vote in the

Food and Agriculture Organisa-

tion," said spokeswoman Mar-

garet Tutwiler.

The United States is supposed to

pay \$61.4 million for 1989,

which is 25 per cent of the agen-

cy's budget.

"We will reassess our par-

icipation in the UN Food and

Agriculture Organisation during

1990," Tutwiler added.

US ire was sparked by the

agency's governing council,

which voted overwhelmingly last

November to help the PLO teach

Palestinians how to grow food in

the Israeli-occupied West

Bank.

The UN agency ignored

repeated US warnings — both

private and public — against

adopting the resolution, which

was introduced by Arab mem-

bers in the 110-nation body.

The United States also was

angered by the budget adopted at

the meeting, which projected a

three per cent growth for 1990

and 1991, said another source.

The Rome-based organisation

ignored a US demand for a bud-

get freeze pending reforms, the

source said.

Contributing further to the

decision about the aid cuts was

the governing council's decision

to deny US representative Dan

Amstutz his right to chair the

food and agriculture council

under a rotation system, the

source said.

The United States has clashed

repeatedly with the United

Nations and its affiliated agen-

cies over their budgets and their

support for the PLO.

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The Kremlin announced on

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State Department spokesman

Stuart Halloudi, chairman of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, told Reuters on Wednesday that preliminary forecasts showed the population rising to between 71 million and 75 million by the year 2000 from 55 to

57 million now.

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representation to an embassy.

State Department spokesman

Stuart Halloudi, chairman of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, told Reuters on Wednesday that preliminary forecasts showed the population rising to between 71 million and 75 million by the year 2000 from 55 to

57 million now.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US share prices plunge

WASHINGTON, Jan 12, (Reuter): A prices report indicating that inflation remains a stubborn problem in the weakening US economy sent Wall Street shares into a tailspin when the New York Stock Exchange opened today.

The Labour Department reported that prices at the wholesale level were up a sharp 0.7 per cent in December after a 0.1 per cent drop in November, a price jump that took analysts by surprise.

The higher-than-expected price figure combined with steep market declines in London and Tokyo to push Wall Street stocks and the dollar down. At 11 am the Dow Jones industrial average was down 45.23 points at 2,715.02.

The dollar fell to 1,6770 West German marks from 1,6805 at Thursday's close.

The December gain lifted the producer price index to a gain of 4.8 per cent for all of 1989, compared with a 4.0 per cent rise in the previous year, the department said.

Energy prices, reflecting freezing temperatures last month, rebounded gaining 1.4 per cent after a 3.3 per cent drop in November.

Wall Street economists had forecast a gain of 0.5 per cent for December. The index measures the average price producers pay for materials and equipment at all stages of production and is an indication of future prices at the retail level.

Economists said the figures show that inflation remains a stubborn problem in the US economy, dimming hopes the Federal Reserve will push down interest rates.

The underlying trends in inflation show "no evidence of any decline," said Charles Liberman, director of Financial Market Research at Manufacturers Hanover Securities Corp.

World airline traffic likely to double in '90s

GENEVA, Jan 12, (Reuter): The world's airlines, ending a decade of rapid growth, will probably carry more than twice as many people by the year 2000, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said yesterday.

That will present an enormous challenge of expanding airports and jetfleets, Grahame Davis, director general of the 88-airline organisation said in a press statement.

"The world's airlines had a spectacularly successful period of growth during the 1980s," he said, noting an increase to 1.1 billion passenger journeys last year from 750 million in 1980 as regulatory controls were dismantled.

The most critical challenge in the coming decade will be absorbing the forecast growth, he said.

Airlines to be merged

SANA, Jan 12, (Reuter): North and South Yemen, pursuing unification moves, plan to merge their airlines to form a combined fleet of 12 planes, a North Yemeni newspaper said today.

The weekly September 26 said Sana and Aden will soon start "taking the necessary steps for the merger of Yemen Airways of the North with Yama, the South Yemeni airline."

Yemen Airways has seven planes. Its average annual gross profit is around 40 million rials (\$4 million).

Since 1978 it has been a joint-stock company with Saudi Arabia holding 49 per cent of the shares. The paper did not say what would happen to the Saudi investment in a merger.

South Yemen's Yama Airline owns five planes.

The newspaper said the merger "comes in accordance with the Aden agreement in Nov 30, 1989, which called for the merger of institutions and organisations on both sides to get maximum benefit from their potential and for the welfare of the Yemeni people in a unified country."

Interest rates		
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-3/16	8-7/16
1 year	8-1/8	8-3/8

New plane's first flight a success

LONG BEACH, California, Jan 12, (AP): The MD-11, the wide-bodied jetliner McDonnell Douglas hopes will bring it billions of dollars in the 1990s, soared off on its maiden flight Wednesday.

The plane completed a series of tests including studies of its handling capabilities, said McDonnell Douglas spokesman Steve Swinney. Pilot John Miller, chief of flight operations for the MD-11 programme, said the plane was stable and handled well.

The plane's takeoff, delayed several hours by thick fog that didn't clear over Long Beach airport until about noon, was witnessed by thousands of McDonnell Douglas employees, Swinney said.

The MD-11 is "quite important to McDonnell Douglas," said Lawrence Harris, an

GCC set to continue industrial development

DUBAI, Jan 12, (Reuter): Industrial development in Gulf Arab oil states seems destined to remain hostage to world markets for the foreseeable future as their small economies and populations are unlikely to achieve a viable market of their own.

In the 1990s, the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) look set to continue high-cost development of major petrochemical and aluminium industries, which they can feed from their own gas and oil production.

There is little else they can do, Arab economists in the region say.

As far as other industries are concerned, there is very limited potential because the size of the market is so small. We have six

countries here with a population no bigger than East Germany," said one senior Gulf-based bank economist.

The only viable regional interval.

There would have to include Iran and Iraq, and perhaps the two Yemens of the Red Sea end of the Arabian Peninsula. That would make a hypothetical market of around 90 million consumers.

Ultimately, the Gulf region must have Iran and Iraq to have a market," said one economist.

Historical, political, social, religious and economic factors make that a near impossibility in the short-term.

Industrial investments in the Gulf are at present aimed mainly at reducing govern-

ment dependence on income from crude oil by creating a value-added use for oil and gas at home.

The oldest regional industry is oil refining where there is a good deal of export capacity.

But critics say Gulf export refineries are at times unprofitable when higher oil prices are added to transport costs to far away US European and Asian markets.

But supply of petrochemicals is outgrowing world demand and analysts predict the Gulf industry will have to continue to contend with high tariff barriers in industrial countries, notably the European Economic Community, and with oversupplied markets.

Regional states also plan expansion of their petrochemical and aluminium industries.

The success of aluminium smelters in

Bahrain and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates prompted Saudi Arabia and Qatar to plan their own.

Industry analysts say good world demand, cheap power, and recently found bauxite reserves in Saudi Arabia promises a stable future for Gulf aluminium.

But supply of petrochemicals is outgrowing world demand and analysts predict the Gulf industry will have to continue to contend with high tariff barriers in industrial countries, notably the European Economic Community, and with oversupplied markets.

A recent study on demand for polyethylene, one of the major petrochemical products, by Phillips Petroleum Singapore

Chemicals, showed world capacity for the product will rise to 38 million tonnes by 1992, against world demand of 32 million.

local states planned their long-term industrial development on the assumption of high world crude prices.

For example, Saudi Arabia spent around \$10 billion since 1976 to establish two industrial cities at Yanbu and Jubail with 15 plants, 12 of them producing petrochemicals and fertilisers. The others produce steel products and oxygen.

The cities were planned when oil prices were running around \$40 per barrel and the use of cheap gas supplies as feedstock was expected to create an advantage over the ones in the West, which used expensive oil products as input.

But with the slump in prices in the mid-1980s this advantage was lost.

Plan to cut refinery runs

Kuwait, UAE cut oil output

DUBAI, Jan 12, (Reuter): Two Gulf states whose oil output is crucial to world prices trimmed production in the first 10 days of January, but a third and biggest

Saudi Arabia — made little change, Gulf oil industry sources said yesterday.

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia produced a total of almost 10 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil in December.

The 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) produced a total average of 23.7 million bpd in the October-December period, the group's highest since the first quarter of 1981, the International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog, said yesterday.

Oil markets are anxiously waiting to see whether Opec members will lower their output to the 22,100 bpd level set at their November ministerial meeting last Friday.

The pact took effect on Jan. 1.

Demand for oil is usually low

in the first quarter of each year after a buildup of stocks ahead of the northern hemisphere winter. Continued high Opec output in the same quarter could well depress oil prices, industry analysts said.

Excess output levels are hard to pin down as all countries keep production figures confidential.

However, exports levels and refinery runs broadly indicate production levels.

"(Crude) exports from Saudi terminals so far are as heavy as December," one oil industry source in the kingdom said.

But he added that judging on tankers loading schedules, exports in the last two weeks of January would be lower, which could put Saudi Arabia's average output in January around its new Opec allocation of 5.38 million bpd.

Saudi Arabia's December output put was seen around 5.65 million bpd in a Reuters survey, including its central zone share, OPEC.

Oil industry sources said that UAE output estimated at 2.3 million bpd in the same December.

Other oil sources said Kuwait planned to cut refinery runs at home and buy crude in Europe for its refineries to lower production.

It is free to set its own production level, but oil industry sources said they expected January average production to be two million bpd. Dubai, the second oil producer in the UAE, produced around 400,000 bpd.

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France eases rules on foreign investment

PARIS, Jan 12. (AP): The government unveiled plans Wednesday to ease rules on foreign investment in France by groups from outside the 12-nation European Economic Community.

The obligatory Treasury Ministry review of planned investments by non-community companies will now be limited to one month, government spokesman Louis le Pensec said after the weekly cabinet meeting. No time limit previously existed.

Failure by the treasury to reject a proposal within 30 days will mean the project can automatically go forward.

The new measure concerns only the acquisition of French companies by groups outside the community. Current laws already allow foreign groups to freely create new companies under most circumstances.

Groups from within the community already have broad freedom to buy French concerns as long as they keep the government informed. France reserves the right to veto investment in companies involved in national defence.

KD deposit rates firm

KUWAIT, Jan 12. (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit rates firmed in response to borrowing demand on Thursday as an influx of liquidity from government payments was quickly taken up.

Dealers said many banks were short on funds because they had lent fixed period maturities at low rates heavily last year amid expectations rates could decline in 1990.

"Everyone is heavily short," one dealer said.

Dinar rates had initially eased on Wednesday following the influx of funds from the Central Bank.

Overnight jumped more than half a point, dealing at 8-1/8 percent then 8-1/4, following offers of 7-3/4 on Wednesday. It ended the day well-bid at 8-3/8 per cent.

Quotes for the tomorrow-next and spot-next both rose to 8-5/8, 8-3/8 from offers of eight.

KUWAITI DINAR RATES	
Indian rupee	0.017340
Sri Lankan rupee	0.007580
Pakistani rupee	0.013740
Bangladeshi taka	0.008970
US dollar	0.220250
Pound sterling	0.466000
UAE dirham	0.079480
Deutsche mark	0.173100
Japanese yen	0.002018

Pakistan shows moderate growth

Despite drop in production

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Jan 12. (AP): An annual economic barometer released by Pakistan's central bank showed that the country's year-old democracy managed to moderate growth rate despite a sharp drop in industrial production.

For the first time in 16 years, the private sector invested heavier than its public counterpart, the State Bank of Pakistan annual report said yesterday.

But the country's trade deficit took a beating, climbing 2.1 per cent. The report blamed heavy flooding in Pakistan's fertile Punjab province, which destroyed much of the country's wheat crop, forcing the government to import massive quantities of grain.

The State Bank report said Pakistan's import bill was \$7,069 million, up 10.5 per cent over last year. But if wheat and machinery imports were removed from the calculation the hike in imports would drop to 1.9 per cent, it said.

Exports, meanwhile, rose 5.3 per cent to \$4,693 million up from \$4,457 million.

Industrial growth edged ahead 1.2 per cent, the report said.

The State Bank report covers the last half of 1988 and the first six months of 1989.

During the year covered by the central bank report, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's left-leaning Pakistan People's Party won the largest bloc of votes in the November 1988 elections, the country's first free polls in 11 years.

When Benazir took office she complained that she inherited a bankrupt economy from her military predecessor, President Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq. Zia died in a suspicious plane crash in August 1988.

Within weeks of assuming office in December, 1988, Benazir signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The agreement reportedly offered an infusion of \$1 billion along with stringent economic guidelines, which her government refused to divulge.

Cotton exports dip

Egypt forced to raise imports

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Jan 12. (Reuters): Egyptian cotton, the best quality cotton in the world and once known as the "white gold" of Egypt, faces another year of declining fortunes in 1989-90 as cotton imports rise and exports fall.

Ahmed Shouman, chairman of the Egyptian Cotton Authority, said the harvest was expected to drop to 5.8 million kantars (254.6 million kilogrammes) in the 1989-90 season against 6.2 million kantars (272.2 million kilogrammes) in the year before.

He told Reuters exports in 1989-90 would drop to 136,000 bales against 192,000 bales, with export earnings falling by about \$100 million. The figures are for Egyptian bales, which include about one and a half times more cotton than American bales.

It expects to import 130,000 bales of American cotton (equivalent to 90,000 Egyptian bales) in 1989-90 against 100,000 bales (equivalent to 69,000 Egyptian bales) the year before.

Egypt exports much of its own long-staple cotton and imports cheaper short-staple cotton to meet domestic demand. It buys cotton only from the United States.

Cotton was once the country's most lucrative export crop, introduced at the end of the last century to try to bring in much-needed foreign currency.

Exported to the textile mills in Britain, cotton production changed Egypt from a subsistence economy to an export-oriented economy.

But its fortunes have steadily dwindled following land reforms introduced by former president Gamal Abdel-Nasser. Many farmers no longer want to grow cotton, which exhausts the soil and earns them less than other crops.

Cotton exports are expected to earn Egypt about \$200 million this season, Shouman said, a tiny amount compared to the billions brought in by the country's main foreign exchange earners nowadays — tourism, oil, the Suez Canal, and money sent home by expatriate workers.

Kaifu, Thatcher to discuss Japan support for Hong Kong

Japan's work, dynamism and efficiency hailed

LONDON, Jan 12. (Reuters): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has brought a pledge to London that Japan will continue to bolster Hong Kong's sagging self-confidence by keeping an economic presence there.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Kaifu during a three-hour meeting today are also expected to welcome China's decision to lift martial law, Japanese officials travelling with Kaifu said.

Following last June's massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing, Britain has sought to maintain confidence in Hong Kong ahead of its return to China in 1997.

Kaifu, who arrived on a whirlwind visit last night, also faces criticism of his country's whaling activities following a campaign by the British-based environmental group Greenpeace.

Thatcher will be presented with a petition signed by more than 100 British members of parliament asking her to urge Kaifu to stop Japanese whaling.

The Japanese officials said the two leaders were not likely to discuss trade issues between Europe and Japan at length.

In Paris, French cabinet mini-

sters made a series of verbal attacks on Japan's closed markets, one calling Japan an adversary set to "conquer the world."

President Francois Mitterrand, smoothing over a barch attack on Tokyo by his European Affairs Minister, Edith Cresson, praised Japan's "remarkable work dynamism and efficiency" in talks with Kaifu yesterday, officials said.

However the socialist Mitterrand also told Kaifu during their talks at the Elysee Palace that Japanese industriousness had given Japan a "dominant position" in world trade, posing the problem of protectionism Elysee spokesman Hubert Vedrine said.

"Sometimes the Japanese market is not protected but it is impenetrable for reasons that belong to our culture," Mitterrand was quoted as saying.

Kaifu replied that Japan had cancelled customs duties on "more than 1,000 products" over the past six months, Japan said Kaifu, was "on the right road."

The discussions said Mitterrand praised the "remarkable work, dynamism and efficiency" of Japan in the world of commerce.

Diplomatic sources said Mitterrand evidently went out of his way to smooth ruffled Japanese feathers after Cresson in an interview published Wednesday called Japan an "adversary" that "wants to conquer the world."

"It is clear that today Japan is an adversary that does not play the game and which has an absolute will to conquer the world."

Despite pledges to import more European Economic Community goods, Japan's trade surplus had widened to \$22.8 billion in 1988, more than double the surplus of \$11.1 billion in 1985.

Cambodia also was among subjects Kaifu and Mitterrand discussed.

The two agreed it is "desirable" that China play a positive role" in the search for a solution to the conflict there — diplomatic language meaning that Beijing should use its influence with the Khmer Rouges to stop the fighting.

Kaifu is to express "understanding" at Britain's decision to forcibly repatriate Vietnamese refugees from Hong Kong.

But the officials said Kaifu would propose an "international scheme" to protect human rights among the refugees. They did not elaborate.

The United States, Canada and Pope John Paul have criticised Britain's move on humanitarian grounds. Indonesia and Malaysia, which have similar problems, and Australia have expressed mild sympathy.



Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu gestures as he meets with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rafsanjani defends plan

Iran to seek \$20b in foreign investment

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Jan 12. (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani today defended his government's plan to seek \$20 billion in foreign investment and insisted that would not drag Iran into "dependence," Tehran Radio reported.

The government's five-year plan to rebuild the country's war-battered economy was approved earlier this week after months of debate.

The controversy focused on Rafsanjani's ambitious plans to normalise ties with the West in order to attract foreign investment.

Radical leaders, who dominate the 270-member parliament and oppose any foreign invest-

ment, argue this will lead Iran into an endless cycle of debt.

They gave the plan the green light after a stern warning Monday by the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to stop frustrating Rafsanjani's efforts to resuscitate the economy.

Rafsanjani, in his Friday sermon in Tehran, rejected any notion that the kind of foreign investment he was seeking would lead Iran into "dependence" on the outside world.

Speaking on the radio, monitored in Nicosia, he argued "this is not dependence. Dependence is created when gas, which is one of our resources, and we can use it to produce hundreds of

products, burns on land and sea, and we do not have the means to harness it now or in the next 20 years."

Iran has signed a number of oil and gas-related agreements, primarily with the Soviet Union, which is helping in gas exploration under the Iranian side of the Caspian Sea bed. But these projects are being financed by huge exports of natural gas which will be piped to the Soviet Union starting in March.

Rafsanjani denied that the \$20 million his government is seeking to rebuild oil-related industries battered in the Gulf war, and to

construct a number of dams, amounted to a loan.

He said any foreign investment in Iran would be repaid from profits after the projects reached production stage.

The eight-year war with Iraq, which halted in August 1988, tapped an annual \$10 billion of the country's resources. Many of Iran's industries are outdated or have fallen into disrepair.

Rafsanjani acknowledged that in his five-year plan "expenditure is based on earnings, but we have some needs in the petrochemical industry and to build some dams, for which we don't have enough foreign exchange."

Spending in the five-year plan is projected at \$350 billion, of which \$112 billion reportedly will be in foreign exchange.

Fuel oil up US wholesale prices jump

WASHINGTON, Jan 12. (AP): US wholesale prices jumped 4.8 per cent in December to boost inflation for 1989 to 4.8 per cent. The worst showing in eight years, the government said today.

The gain in the Labour Department's producer price index for finished goods, one stop short of retail, topped last year's rate of 4.0 per cent and more than doubled the 1987 rate of 2.2 per cent.

It marked the third consecutive year that price increases have accelerated and was the steepest rise since the index shot up 7.1 per cent in 1981.

The annual number for 1989 marked a roller-coaster ride that had prices rising at better than 8 per cent annual rate in the first five months of the year, slowing to 1 per cent annual rate from June through November and then soaring again in December.

Prices again fallen 0.1 per cent in November and risen 0.4 per cent in October.

As with inflation early in the year, wholesale price gains in December were fuelled by a steep rise in the energy sector, where prices rose 1.4 per cent for the month and 9.6 per cent for the entire year.

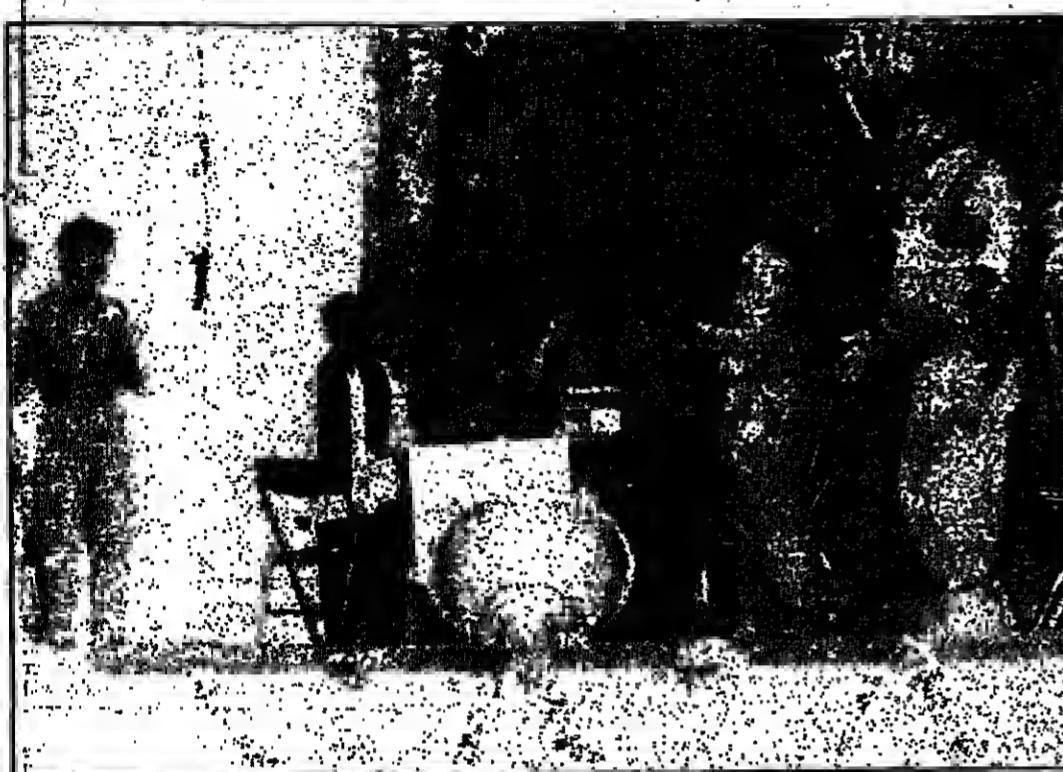
The deep freeze that gripped much of the nation last month helped boost fuel prices 7.1 per cent and natural gas costs 1.6 per cent. Gasoline prices were unchanged after falling 7.1 per cent in November.

Meanwhile, food inflation for the year was 5.0 per cent, an improvement over 5.7 per cent in 1988, when a summer drought sent the nation's food prices soaring.

The various changes in December left the wholesale price index at 115.3 per cent of its 1982 base. That meant that a hypothetical market basket of goods cost \$115.30 in December, up from \$110 a year earlier.

Bombay Stock Exchange	
Pr.Closes	Open
GNFC	42.50
Granit	126
GC Ships	51.00
GSFC	177.50
Guji Aldi	86
Guji Heavy	18
Hero Honda	19
Hind Cible	1490
Hind Lever	115.50
Hindustan	166.50
Hind Motor	37.50
Sens Goss	93.50
Shaw Wall	94
Shree Cem	—
Shri Fib	66
Siemens	117
SKF	1500
SIC	61
SI Mills	71
Tata Oil	—
Tata Chem	130.50
Tata Pow	605
Teico	125.75
Thapp Agro	114
Titan	165
Van Org	162.50
Vareli	23.75
Volas	750
Wimco	29.50
Zenith	61
Zuan Agro	64
Compiled by Kauwait-India International Exchange Co.	123

Tokyo shares	
NIKKEI Stock average: 37516.77 (- 653.36)	
Volume: 600 mils	
Yen exchange rate: 145.35	



Indian School's Parent's Day

The Senior Indian School celebrated their Annual Parent's Day on Wednesday at the Indian Arts Circle. The function included a variety programme carried out by the senior students, as well as prize giving to the outstanding students.

Silpasala

SILPASALA, a literary forum of Keralites has decided to conduct a one day short story camp on March 2nd 1990.

The camp will begin at 9 am with two essays on various aspects of short stories — "Malayalam Short story in my view point" and "Problems associated with writing (and confronted by writers)." There will be a discussion based on these essays.

Later in the afternoon, writers will present their short stories followed by a review of the works and a discussion.

Those who are interested to present stories should send them to the convenor Silpasala, P.O. Box 909, 13030 Safat, Kuwait, so as to reach before February 15, 1990.

The selected works presented at the camp will be included in a collection of short stories to be published by the forum shortly.

ARTS

Photography and Oil painting classes

OIL painting classes beginning 15 January.

Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January.

5 week course, once a week 4:30 to 7:30 pm. For further details please call Amr Eid Tel. 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open

from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

SOCIAL

Ramada Al Salam

GRAND Indian Food Festival from January 21-26. Display stalls open to Indian companies and individuals. Contact Clifton or Siddiq on 4835344.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, oo Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 394817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

The Carnival Nite

THE Entertainers proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait 'The Carnival Nite' which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage - maio ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Besure to be there with all your gilt and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

TIVIM Centre

TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Foothall Tournament which will be held on the South grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers: 2441860 Casimiro.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorrington. The auditions will be held in the Theatre on 21 and 22 January at 8 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.

Saaz Aur Aawaz

FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bholi Bistre Greet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Kuwait on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Philip Morris sponsorship of scholarships at AUC

PHILIP MORRIS is pleased to announce the inauguration of the Philip Morris Scholarships which will be awarded to students of the American University in Cairo (AUC).

Philip Morris, the world's largest consumer packaged goods company, will fund two scholarships worth \$2,500 each year to eligible deserving students to pursue their education. The scholarships will be awarded to students majoring in Arabic/Middle East studies and will be based on the students' financial need. The recipients will be known as the Philip Morris Scholars. The first scholarships will be awarded for the academic year 1989-1990.

The American University in Cairo was established in 1919 to provide a high quality, English language education for Egyptian youth. Today, the student body is 75 per cent Egyptian, with 25 percent coming from other Middle Eastern countries, Africa, Europe and the United States. In addition to providing a traditional liberal arts college education, the university offers the most extensive adult education programme in the Middle East and is home to two international recognised research centres.

The American University in Cairo welcomes this commitment by Philip Morris to support educational opportunities in Egypt. The company joins a pres-

tigious list of private corporations and individuals who have provided scholarships in recent years.

Philip Morris Companies Inc., with headquarters in New York, manufactures tobacco, food and beverage products of the highest quality. Its success in Egypt is evidenced by the fact that Philip Morris' cigarettes, Marlboro and Marlboro Lights, now account for almost 80 percent of the international brand segment of the Egyptian cigarette market. Philip Morris Companies Inc.



ARAB REVISON PROGRAMME

KTV1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Toyous Billa Ajneha: Arabic serial (part 9)
11.25 Sabah Al Kher News
11.30 Wada' Zaman Al Samat: Arabic weekly serial (part 2)
12.25 News Summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher News
12.35 Holy Quran and Closdown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Berem: Cartoon serial
5.15 The Young Artist: Local children's programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Sheik
5.45 Night Chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Imam Mohammed Abdoh: Historical serial (part 13)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Noor Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qader
7.45 Cultural programme
8.00 Security and Citizens: Local programme
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ghadah Tushreq Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 11)
10.45 Thabit Al Nashama: Beduin weekly serial (part 2), starring Gharem Al Saleh, Ali Al Mofeedi, Abere Issa and Roubi Al Safadi
11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.05 Holy Quran and Closdown

KTV2

6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 Adventures of Raggedy and Andy: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Orphans of The Wild "Hyena": A look at specialised centre for providing information about all kinds of animal life to universities and institutes.

7.00 The Ultimate Machine: Mind and senses help man to understand his environment
7.30 The Hogan Family "You've Got To Believe": Mr Baker, the history professor has a heart attack where David helps saving him ... This accident helped David to regain faith in himself and renewed his self-confidence.

8.00 News in English
8.30 Quantum Leap: "The Right Hand of God": "Frankie" pretends that he is the well known boxer "Koode" and gains an important match by the help of "Al" the invisible man. Will he continue playing boxing matches.

9.30 The Great Iron Wall: A look at the battles waged by the peoples army against the Japanese invasion. Victories achieved by Mao. The Chinese military intervention in Korea. Mao's teachings
10.30 Late Night Film: "Nightmare At Bitter Creek": Three women and a young girl attempt to find one of their husbands with the help of a guide named Ding. But they face difficulties and unexpected trouble from a gang of four men
12.00 News in English
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

The Launching Ceremony

MONTHLY ADABI DIGEST



Adabi Digest launched

The Urdu monthly, Adabi Digest, was launched at a ceremony held at the Meridien Hotel on Thursday. The monthly will be issued from Lahore, Pakistan. The launch was followed by an Urdu mushaira in which a large number of poets from India and Pakistan took part. Pictures shows: top (left to right) Hamid Siddiqui, Atzmat Sheikh, Tahir Pervez, Editor Adabi Digest and Haroon Saeed. Bottom: some of the audience.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sousarant Astana Dila" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaitees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Feley, Josepboie, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John da Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Folk Songs

A CULTURAL show on popular folk songs and dances of Bangladesh organised by Nirjhar cultural group will be presented at auditorium of Sharq Co-operative on 19th January at 6 pm.

K. M. Shehabuddin, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Kuwait, has kindly consented to grace the occasion as the chief guest.

For details please contact: Maha Al Amal 4315692 Salam 4330416, Jaijal 2420711, 2409887, Manna 4317723.

British Council

THE Scarlet and the Black — 137 min. Saturday, 13 Jan and Sunday, 14 Jan at 6.30 pm.

This is the remarkable story of an Irish priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who founded an organisation to help escaping Allied prisoners of war. Features a brilliant cast: Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and John Gielgud. Admission is free but please telephone to reserve seats: 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Study the Humanities and Social Sciences in Britain. For more information on degree-level studies of these subjects, please visit The British Council Education Office on Mooday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm end 5.00 to 8.00 pm.

Ballet

STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jao 1990 registration is now open Saturday in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held on January 13 at 10 am at the Messiah Beach Hotel. Their chief will be giving a demonstration. Newcomers welcome. For further information call 5388105 or 4874513.

event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Lieht — 3727688 ext 246; or Bjarne Rasmussen — 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

Arabic film
Al Haifa
Al Salimiyah
Arabic film
Arabic film

Drive-In
Revenge of the Nerds
Al Firdous
Malamaal

Fahash
Inkulabante Putri

The Dart Tournament for Darts will take place at the Gazebo Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2 pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family

Salsabikhat

Arabic film
Jleeb
Lalame Ricayil
Ahmadi Drive-in
Iroo Angels II

PRAYERS

Fajr
Zohr
11.57

Asr
Maghreb
2.51 pm

Granada
License to Kill
6.31



Eighth Medical Conference

Kuwait Medical Association held a party in honour of organising committee for the Eighth Medical Conference which was held recently in Kuwait at Kuwait International Hotel. Dr Bader Hamada praised efforts extended by the communities for organising the conference. A number of participants received certificates at the end of the party which was attended by a large gathering of members and newsmen.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HORACE THE HORRIBLE — By Dale Brown



AGATHA CRUMPTIE — By Dulcie Hest



BEETLEBAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brian Parker & Donald Hart



ANDY CAPP — By Johnny Hart



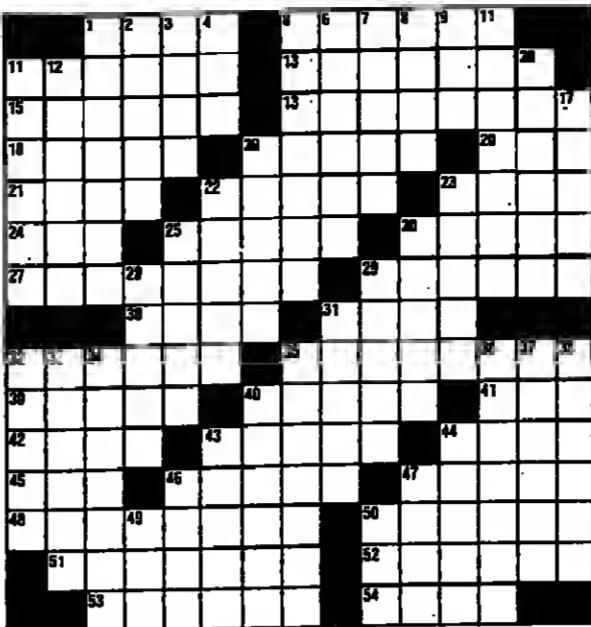
P.G. — By Johnny Hart



THE MAN — By G. Fendrich & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Mete for mama
 5 Of the stars
 11 Trapped
 13 Went off the beaten path
 15 Extreme dislike
 16 Having three feet
 18 Flower essence
 19 Hall
 20 African antelope
 21 Club charges
 22 Extreme happiness
 23 Sufecracker
 24 Make a mistake
 25 Peruses
 26 Park of ballet fame
 27 Pass judgment
 29 Tantalizer
 30 Violinist — Sophie Mutter
 31 Young salmon
 32 No ordinary thing
 35 Equality in dealings
 39 Controls a horse
 40 Paddock youngster
 41 Allow
 42 Beer ingredient
 43 Czech patriot Edvard —
 44 Hill's opposite
 45 Old French coin
 46 Fathered
 47 Syrup source
 48 Spinning blades
 50 More populated
 51 Vetoed

DOWN
 1 Dressmaker's head
 2 Tapestry
 3 One's equal
 4 Total up
 5 On horseback
 6 Emphasize
 7 Attempts
 8 Overcome with awe
 9 Certain vote
 10 Bookkeeper's journals
 11 Window coverings
 12 Mother —
 14 Hang loosely
 17 Gun make
 19 — Bay, Nove Scotia
 22 Musician Goodman

**52 Derby competitors
 53 Capitol body
 54 Tireless vehicle
 55 Adroit maneuvering
 56 Passes, as time
 37 Wall Street "bear", e.g.
 38 Takes the helm
 40 Search out
 43 Flora and fauna
 44 Trip the light fantastic
 48 Ollie's buddy
 49 Repeat
 49 Long time
 50 AMA members**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
 MATS BETA PLAN
 ARIA ARLEN RODE
 JACK OF ALL TRADES
 ABSENTEE OWENS
 CES FAWN
 RAFTER GAME SIS
 ERLE SARAH AVE
 GOOD TIME CHARLIE
 ASA ADELE OVER
 NET VOWS BLEEDS
 GELS BAA
 ASTER OUTDOORS
 JOHNNY DON'T SPOT
 ALEE ABUTS SEAL
 ROYS KISS ANND

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

HOW THE MIGHTY CAN FALL

Neither vulnerable, East deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 9 8 6 2
 ♦ Q 8
 ♣ K 7
 ♠ A Q J 6 2

WEST
 ♠ 10 3
 ♦ 10 7 4 3
 ♣ 9 6 5 3
 ♠ K 10 9

EAST
 ♠ K Q J 5
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ A Q 8 4
 ♠ 7 5 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A 7 4
 ♦ A K J 6 2
 ♣ J 10 2
 ♠ 8 4

The bidding:
 East South West North
 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
 Dbl Rdbl Pass 3 ♠
 Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

The difference between ordinary and great players is that run-of-the-mill players make mistakes, while experts create catastrophes! Consider this hand from the 1989 European Team Championships.

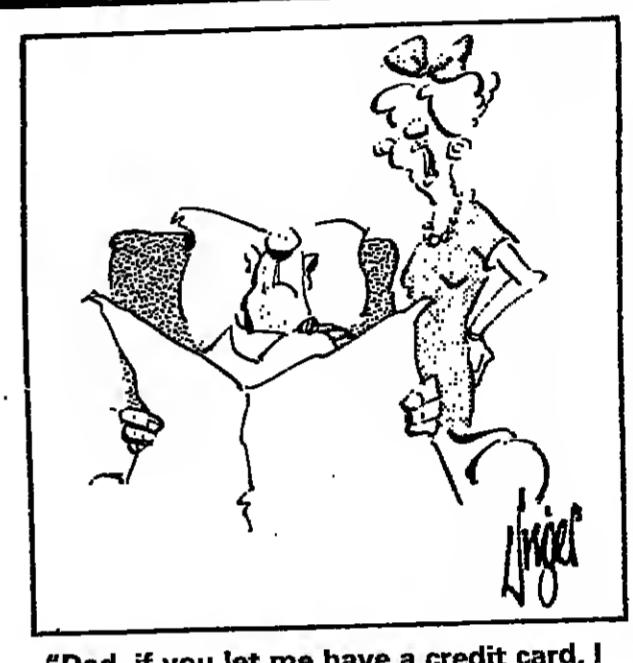
In one room, the Swedes played in three no trump and made 11

tricks by the simple expedient of taking two finesses in clubs. In the other room, the Bulgarians reached four hearts. It might seem that the same 11 tricks were there by adopting the same approach (baby play, some might say), but declarer managed to foul up his timing. The result was quite remarkable.

Declarer won the opening spade lead in hand and drew trumps in four rounds. Now, South took a winning club finesse, but he found himself stuck in dummy—he had no way back to his hand to repeat the finesse.

The best declarer could do was to cash the ace of clubs, ruff a club and exit with a spade. That permitted East to score three spade tricks and the ace of diamonds for down one!

In some respects, declarer could be congratulated on going down only one. Had he not endplayed East with a spade but tried to reach the table with a diamond, he would have suffered a two-trick defeat. However, that was little consolation to his teammates, who found they had lost 11 International Match Points on a hand they had estimated as a tie.



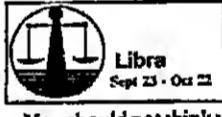
YOUR STARS



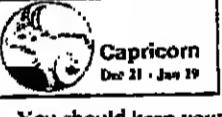
Things are not as good as they seem to be so exercise a little more care. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 37. Do not think others are there only for your sake. Make sure you stick to limits whether of speed or of safety. Be frugal.



You will have something to be really pleased about. However, you must not be too disappointed if something you had hoped for does not happen.



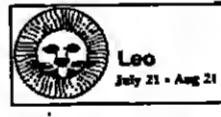
You should not think you are too old but then nor should you try to behave as if you were ten years younger than you are. You will be able to satisfy one of your ambitions. Do not do anything foolish just because you feel lonely.



You should keep your eyes and ears open. And do not think others are as fond of the sound of your voice as you are. You should do all you can to make your home secure, there are burglars about. Be respectful.



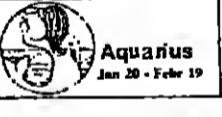
You will be in a better mood and others will react accordingly. You will tend to be a little lethargic and should take remedial action. Avoid eating merely out of habit. Be a little more lenient.



You should try to become a little more aware of what is going on around you. Once you have made up your mind stuck to it, unless you really are on the wrong track. And do listen to and take good advice. Be less resentful.



You will be able to listen and appreciate good music. Make sure a friend is not left in the dark about your gratitude. You would do well to have a good laugh at yourself rather than being too serious. Be vigilant.



Try not to get into a muddle and do try to keep things more tidy. Do not spend too much time chatting on the phone when the other person is paying. Think twice and more about the consequences of your actions. Be tolerant.



You should not take too much for granted. Nor should you expect something for nothing. Indeed if you expect less you will be pleasantly surprised. Be fair.



If you are thinking of legal action you must take into account the possibility that you might lose your case. You still have a lot to learn and should be willing to do so. Live in the present and do not dwell on the past. Be courteous.



Not everything is quite as you would wish it to be but do not be too aggressive. Do not keep others waiting to hear from you. Make sure you do not neglect a cold or other kind of infection. Be frugal.



You are short of space and should try to use it to good effect. Do not hesitate to discard what you no longer need, but avoid adding to pollution. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be amenable.



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

KUWAIT AMATEUR PHILATELIST STAMP SHOW 1990

Competitors are invited to participate in first ever Kuwait Amateur Philatelist Stamp Show 1990 commencing from 5th February 1990. Your collections should reach us before 30th January 1990. For further details please contact: Mr. Dilawer Hussain

Bounhali Co. Tel: 5728000
P.O. Box 412 Safat, 13005 Kuwait.

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- 2) New shop, for rent, KD 180/- 21 sq.mt.
- 3) New flats in Maidan Hawalli — 2 bed rooms, with sitting room, central A/C. KD 200/-

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Department

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ACCOMMODATION

Available

SHARQ, near Khalijia building. One room for two working ladies from Feb 1990, preferred south Indian. Tele Macdhavan. Off. 2417758. Res. 2445787. (AT6-51060-3)

SALMIYA, Amman Street opp Al Rashed Hospital, single room for a bachelor to share with a family. Tele. 5832426. (AT5-51013-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous Cinema near the "Nooriya Saloon." House No. 117. Room for a family. Tel: 2432169. (AT6-51029-3)

SALMIYA. Single room with water, electricity and tele. facilities for an elderly bachelor to share with a Muslim family. Tele. 5832426. (AT6-51048-3)

AL Qadsia, house No. 14, Block 4, Road 42. 5 rooms with water and electricity for a family, working girls. Rent KD45. 35. Tele. Salam, 4735054 (working hours). (AT1-51078-3)

SALMIYA, opp. the Sultan Center. Sharing accommodation for 2 working executive ladies or a couple. Tele. Imed, 5736497. from 9am - 1pm, 8 - 8 pm. (AT1-51058-3)

JABRIYA, new 2 storey villa, CAC. 6 bedrooms, 2 large halls, 3 bathrooms, large fitted kitchen, servant's quarter. Rent KD800. Tele. 5324848. (AT1-51079-3)

SALMIYA, near the Indian School. One bedroom for a couple to share with a Gujrati family (pure vegetarian). Bus routes 19, 30, 24, 45. Tele Thakkar, 2406193 from 9am - 12.30 pm. (AT1-51062-2)

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VOLKSWAGEN. 1975, green, registered upto May 90. Engine recently overhauled, in good running condition. KD300. Tele. 3262691 ext 29. (AT1-51077-3)

BUICK Le Sabre 1977 sport coupe, AC, fully automatic, white with reconditioned engine. Tele. 4717403. (AT6-HU-3)

BUICK Electra '79, engine and body in good condition with new painting. KD300 cash. Tele. 5383808 (Res) after 3pm. (AT1-51073-3)

OLDSMOBILE '98 Regency, model 1980, automatic, dark blue, AC including accessories. Driven by an Indian engineer. KD500. Tele. Anil Kumar, 5614666 (Res), 240563 (OR). (AT6-51065-2)

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Al Hilal Street
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Capitol Int'l Travels
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08:30 to 17:00
Res. Tel. 3726185
from 18:30 to 20:30
Francis Almeida
Tel 3726185

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(AT1-51032-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant 1982 model, AC, automatic, insured upto Dec 1990, in good running condition. Tele. Abraham, 4588240, 8 am - 1 pm and 4 - 8pm.

(AT6-51037-2)

SUBARU 1981 model. Manual, registered upto Nov 1990, in good condition. KD450 ono. Tele. 5623821 before 9.30 pm.

(AT6-51035-3)

AUDI Quattro 1984, manual gear, 1 door, bronze beige, 82,000 kms, 5 cylinder turbo, 5 speeds, in excellent condition. KD4,600. Tala, Mr Riyad, 5745687-8 Mr Khalid 2530595.

(AT1-51051-2)

MITSUBISHI Pajero, super wagon, '88, AC, manual, dark blue, 32,000 kms, in excellent condition. One owner from new. KD3250 cash. Tele: Mr Jukka, 5320256, 10 am - 6 pm.

(AT6-51049-2)

JAGUAR (Daimler) 1988 model, navy colour in good condition. Can be checked. Tele 909743.

(AT6-HU-3)

BUICK Le Sabre 1977 sport coupe, AC, fully automatic, white with reconditioned engine. Tele. 4717403. (AT5-51009-3)

OLDSMOBILE '98 Regency, model 1980, automatic, dark blue, AC including accessories. Driven by an Indian engineer. KD500. Tele. Anil Kumar, 5614666 (Res), 240563 (OR). (AT6-51034-3)

HOUSEHOLD items for sale. Tele. 2668248, after 4 pm.

(AT5-51026-3)

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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Robson to miss another match

Derby crash out to Port Vale

LONDON, Jan 12. (Reuters): England goalkeeper Peter Shilton's longstanding ambition to win an English FA Cup winners' medal was put on ice for another season on Wednesday when Derby were bundled out of the competition at home by Port Vale.

The Second Division side never looked back after going ahead in the 48th minute through a Rob Hindmarch own goal and went on to win the third round replay 3-2.

Derby hauled themselves level through Craig Ramage, but goals by Ray Walker and Nicky Cross effectively put the match beyond Derby's reach. Substitute Kevin Francis was the home side's other marksman.

Derby were the only one of seven First Division sides involved in replays on Wednesday to fall by the wayside, through Everton, last year's beaten finalists, were held to a 1-1 draw after extra time at home to Second Division Middlesbrough.

Full back Gary Parkinson celebrated his 22nd birthday by equalising for Middlesbrough after 75 minutes. Kevin Sheedy had given the First Division side the lead in the 37th minute.

Kerry Dixon scored twice for Chelsea in their 2-0 win at Crewe

to spare his club any further embarrassment against the Third Division side who came close to beating the Londoners on Saturday.

Another London side, Queen's Rangers, also made no mistake against Third Division opposition. They beat Cardiff 2-0 to line up a glamorous tie against League champions Arsenal.

The goals came from two of Rangers' latest recruits, former England midfielder Ray Wilkins and Roy Wegerle.

Norwich earned themselves a home tie against Cup holders Liverpool, who blitzed Swans 8-0 in a replay on Tuesday, by beating Fourth Division Exeter 2-0 at home.

Robert Rosario game them the lead in the sixth minute but it was not until 14 minutes from the end that Norwich sealed a place in the fourth round with Dale Gordon's spectacular diving header.

Former Athletic Bilbao manager Howard Kendall aims to boost the rehabilitation of his new club Manchester City by smashing a four-year jinx in the English Soccer League tomorrow.

For City, hinting at a revival since Kendall became their manager last month after being

sacked by the Spanish side, have not won in their last 46 away League and cup games against First Division opposition.

Their last success was in January 1986 when they won 2-0 at Tottenham — the London club which is the venue for today's Division One clash at the weekend.

Kendall's city continue their battle to climb from 18th in the 20-team division on a day when leaders Liverpool and second-placed Aston Villa have an excellent opportunity to consolidate.

Liverpool are home to 19th-placed Luton while Villa — two points behind the leaders with a game in hand — travel to bottom club Charlton.

City's wretched away sequence would have come to an end in their midweek FA Cup replay at Millwall bad striker Clive Allen converted a close range chance in the final seconds of regular time. The match ended 1-1.

Allen joined City from French First Division Bordeaux only last summer but his future with the Manchester club may be in doubt as Kendall reshapes his team.

Wayne Clarke, the former Everton striker, has joined City and Kendall also reported to have inquired about two other

forwards, Aston Villa's Adrian Heath and Tottenham's Paul Stewart, whom City sold to Tottenham 18 months ago.

Meanwhile, Kendall has at least stiffened his side's defence by signing Alan Harper, the ex-Everton defender, and playing him as a sweeper. This has stemmed the flow of goals against, with only three conceded in his first six games compared with 20 in the previous season.

Apart from preserving their FA Cup interest it has also helped lift City off the foot of the First Division. A win at Tottenham should take them out of the relegation zone for the first time since early October.

Spurs, fifth, need a lift after two successive home defeats, including a 3-2 setback at the hands of Southampton that put them out of the cup last weekend.

Tottenham skipper Gary Mabbutt suggested Southampton had a greater will to win, a factor that his team's manager Terry Venables must have been striving to put right during this week's preparations.

Manchester's other beleaguered club — 15th-placed United — will be without their England captain Bryan Robson because of a groin injury for a fifth successive match, against Derby at Old Trafford.

For Arsenal, hinting at a revival since Kendall became their manager last month after being

sacked by the Spanish side, have not won in their last 46 away League and cup games against First Division opposition.

Although the Manchester side's manager Alex Ferguson found some respite with their FA Cup victory at Nottingham Forest last Sunday, he will be aware that First Division points are more crucial to ease the pressure significantly.

■ English Soccer League champions Arsenal, who swiftly punished players involved in a post-match incident on December 30, have escaped a Football Association (FA) disciplinary charge over the affair.

No further action will be taken against Arsenal, whose captain Tony Adams and physiotherapist Gary Lewin were praised by FA chief executive Graham Kelly for acting as peacemakers during the incident at Aston Villa.

Kelly said yesterday: "We welcome the swift internal disciplinary action taken by the club against their players, and it is clear that the intervention of Adams and Lewin was helpful in defusing the situation."

Four Arsenal players received hefty club fines after protesting to referee Tim Ashworth that Villa's winning goal in the First Division game was offside.

Arsenal were fined £20,000 (\$31,000) by the FA after a mass brawl at the end of their home League match against Norwich last November.

Results

English FA Cup		Division Two		Scottish League Premier Division	
Aston Villa	3	Blackburn	1	St Mirren	0
Brighton	0	Cheltenham	3	East Fife	4
Derby	2	Port Vale	3	East Stirlingshire	1
Everton	1	Middlesbrough	0	Qn. of the Sh. 1	1
Norwich	1	Exeter	0	Dunfermline	0
Oldham	1	Birmingham	0		
Q PR	2	Cardiff	0		

Draws

Division Two		Scottish League Premier Division	
East Fife	4	Kilmarnock	2
East Stirlingshire	2	Brechin	1
Qn. of the Sh. 1	1	Dunfermline	0

Revised draw for the Fourth Round of the English Football Association (FA) Cup after Wednesday's third round replays: Bristol City v Chelsea; Norwich v Liverpool; Rochdale v Nottingham; Aston Villa v Port Vale; Reading v New Castle; Southampton v Oxford; Bradford v Ipswich; Hereford v Mansfield; Bury v Tranmere; Shrewsbury Wednesday v Middlesbrough; Everton v Sheffield United v Watford; Manchester City or Millwall v Cambridge United; Oldham v Brighton; Crystal Palace v Huddersfield; Arsenal v Queen's Park Rangers; West Bromwich v Charlton.

Matches to be played on weekend of January 27-28



Valdano (left) fights for the ball with Emmanuel Petit (right) and Roger Mandy of Monaco. (Reuters wirephoto)

Monaco defeat Argentina

MONACO, Jan 12. (Reuters): Argentine Ramon Diaz, almost certain to be left out of his country's team for the World Cup soccer finals, took some revenge on Wednesday, leading French club side Monaco to a 2-0 victory over Argentina in a friendly.

In a further friendly Argentina faced Guatemala on Sunday and Mexico in Los Angeles next Wednesday.

Season after a two-year break, was the only Argentine success in a game dominated by Monaco.

In a further friendly Argentina faced Guatemala on Sunday and Mexico in Los Angeles next Wednesday.

Teams:

Monaco: Jean-Luc Ettori, Claude Puel, Luc

Sonor, Remy Vogel, Joel Mandy, Fabrice Poullain, Jean-Marc Ferratge, Marcel Dih, Mark Hateley, Fabrice Mege, Ramon Diaz.

Substitutes: Patrick Valery, Emmanuel Petit, Eric Guen, Dominique Bijotat, Jose Toure, Youssouf Fofana.

Argentina: Julio Cesar Falcioni, Pedro Monazon, Julio Olarticochea, Jose Luis Brown, Ricardo Giusti, Sergio Batista, Jose Basualdo, Jorge Burruaga, Jorge Valdano, Nestor Gorosito, Carlos Alvaro Moreno.

Substitutes: Giocochea, Nestor Fabbri, Chamot, Diego Simeone, Gabriel Calderon, Aires.

Brazil and Argentina triumph

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 12. (AP): Brazil routed the Netherlands 4-1 and Argentina outgunned Poland 5-2 Wednesday in the opening round of the Masters Cup tournament of former soccer stars held in South America's largest city.

Some 6,500 fans braved heavy rain at a stadium in Sao Paulo to watch the Brazilian and Dutch stars show glimpses of their former glory with graceful passing and artistic offside play.

The quicker, better-fit Brazilian team missed a number of early scoring chances. The best came in the 10th minute when striker Zico, formerly of Rio's famed Flamengo squad, was robbed by goalie Shivar after sending a blast from inside the penalty area earmarked for the near corner.

Brazil scored first when striker Edel took a pass at the top of the penalty and drilled a bullet inside the post in the 41st minute to make it 1-0 before halftime.

The Netherlands seniors, without stars Neeskens, Reesink, Krol and Cruyff that formed the famous World Cup squads of 1974 and 1978, picked up some momentum early in the second half when Brazil failed to score.

In the 67th minute, striker Boeve headed a soft, arcing shot that floated over confused goalie Paulo Vitor and dropped into the corner of the net to tie the score, 1-1.

Brazil struck back less than a half-minute later when replacement Claudio Adao took a pass from Zeon while cutting in on net and beat Shivar to put the home team back on top, 2-1.

Brazil padded its lead in the 84th minute when Adao slipped a pass to Shivar in the penalty box, took pass from Zico on his right foot and sliced a shot just inside the post to make it 3-1.



Butragueno scores twice

MADRID, Jan 12. (Reuters): Emilio Butragueno scored twice as holders Real Madrid cruised to a 3-0 first leg victory over Valladolid in the Spanish Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Valladolid, beaten 1-0 by Real in last year's final, were always second best in a lacklustre affair.

Butragueno opened the scoring after three minutes. But Real had to wait until a minute before halftime for their second, Argentinian Oscar Ruggieri heading home a corner from Vazquez.

Vazquez set up Butragueno for Real's third two minutes from the end.

In the Wednesday's other quarterfinal, Cadiz reduced to 10 men after defender Angel Obregon was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 44th minute, managed to hold Gijon to a goalless draw thanks to several brilliant saves by Hungarian goalkeeper Joseph Szendrei.

Witherspoon stops Sims for 31st victory

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Jan 12. (AP): Tim Witherspoon, a two-time former heavyweight champion, knocked down Jeff Sims in the first round last night, then beat him up until the referee stepped in after five rounds to end the heavyweight fight.

It was the sixth straight victory for the 32-year-old Witherspoon.

Another 10-round heavyweight bout matched Tyrell Biggs and Ozzie Ocasio, both of whom had unsuccessfully challenged for the heavyweight title. This one was won by Biggs on a clear-cut decision.

Enough

Witherspoon shook the 35-year-old Sims with a right hand to the head shortly after the opening bell, then put him down with a left hook and right uppercut.

Sims got through the round but was hurt on several occasions until referee Frank Cappuccino had seen enough and called a halt with Sims sitting on his stool after the fifth round.

Witherspoon had a big round in the fourth, when he hurt Sims with two rights to the body, again with a right to the head, again with a left hook to the body and a fourth round with another right to the head.

West and East Germany to play friendly

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Jan 12. (AP): East and West Germany will meet for only the second time in history in an exhibition soccer match in August in Leipzig, officials of the two soccer federations announced yesterday.

In the only game to date between the two national team, East Germany upset West Germany 1-0 at the 1974 World Cup in West Germany went on to win the World Cup.

The Aug. 29, match in Leipzig, East Germany, will be scrapped, however, if the two sides are drawn into the same qualifying group for the European Championships. The draw is scheduled for Feb. 2 in Stockholm. If the two German teams are in same group, they will have to play each other twice before the end of 1991. If the August match goes ahead, it is expected to mark the debut of Berti Vogts as West German national team manager.

Vogts, a former international, is slated to succeed Franz Beckenbauer after this summer's World Cup in Italy.

The officials meeting in Frankfurt also agreed on several other games between dif-

ferent selections, including the under-21, junior and women's sides.

Future transfers of East German non-amateur players to West German clubs will be governed by International Soccer Federation (Fifa) rules and the two sides agreed to avoid services of middlemen and similar agencies that negotiate transfers.

The agreement also provides for a tournament between East and West German League and Cup champions starting in 1991.

The two sides will exchange training school programmes that will allow them to recognise each other's trainer diplomas.

■ Jürgen Sparwasser, who became an East German sports hero after scoring the winning goal against West Germany in a World Cup soccer match but later earned scorn for defecting, will go home to play a charity match, officials said Wednesday.

Sparwasser was named Wednesday to a joint German team of 1974 World Cup veterans that will meet a world selection in Dresden on March 26.

The Dresden game will mark the first time in the postwar years that a joint German team will get together.

The world selection will include former World Cup stars Jairzinho and Carlos Alberto of Brazil, Paolo Rossi and Claudio Gentile of Italy, Kevin Keegan of England, Hans Krankl of Austria and Bum Kun Cha of South Korea.

Marcel Raducanu, a former Romanian international who had a distinguished career after defecting to West Germany, also has been invited to play for the world selection, organisers told a news conference in West Berlin.

Sparwasser scored the historic goal that gave East Germany a 1-0 victory over West Germany in an early round at the 1974 World Cup in West Germany. West Germany went on to win the World Cup despite the defeat.

After defecting to West Germany in 1988, Sparwasser was denounced as a traitor by East Germans officials. He is now a coach with Eintracht Frankfurt, a leading West German First Division Club, where he is in charge of the amateur side.

Sparswasser's historic goal that gave East Germany a 1-0 victory over West Germany in an early round at the 1974 World Cup in West Germany. West Germany went on to win the World Cup despite the defeat.

The Dresden game will mark the first time in the postwar years that a joint German team will get together.

Nowhere is Foreman, the former heavyweight champion, back after 10 years of preaching the Bible, and Cooney, back again after a half year after Michael Spinks agreed, awarding the Cup to him.

In 1987 Sugar Ray Leonard came out of retirement yet again to beat Marvellous Marvin Hagler in a huge financial success. That fight helped spawn fights between Larry Holmes and Mike Tyson. Thomas Hearns and Leonard and last month's lacklustre 12-round clash between Roberto Duran and Leonard.

Nowhere is Foreman, the former heavyweight champion, back after 10 years of preaching the Bible, and Cooney, back again after a half year after Michael Spinks agreed, awarding the Cup to him.

Turner skipped Mariner in the 1974 defense trials, losing to eventual winner Cooney. The then bought the boat and used it in the successful 1977 defense against bond.

Chesnokov and Krishnan reach semifinals

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 12. (Reuter): Top seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union battled strong winds to beat Canadian Grant Connell in the quarter-finals of the \$150,000 New Zealand Open today.

The win takes Chesnokov through to the semifinals where he will meet Israeli

Amos Mansdorf.

The lefthander Connell won the first set 6-2 against Chesnokov with brilliant attacking tennis.

Connell chased every service and volley on to 3-1 in the second set with a break point for the game.

He said afterwards: "This was the crisis. I though I had the volley covered... I muffed it. After that my confidence was affected.

"You can go in against Chesnokov's second service which, for a player of his class, is decidedly weak, but having got that game... his confidence improved."

In other matches, Ramesh Krishnan of India beat Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden after the first set went to a tiebreaker. Gustafsson was easily outplayed in the second with the final score 7-6 (7-5) 6-2.

The win takes Krishnan to the semifinal against Scott Davis of the US.

Becker prepares to grab No. 1 spot

SYDNEY, Jan 12. (Reuter): Boris Becker's pursuit of Ivan Lendl's world number one spot begins in earnest when the pair get together at the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam tournament of the 1990s, in Melbourne on Monday.

Becker, the Wimbledon and US Open champion, believes he has already done enough to overtake Lendl who will be 30 in March. But the rankings computer tells otherwise.

Before this week's New South Wales Open, Becker's Czechoslovak rivalled by more than 600 ranking points, the equivalent of two major tournament victories.

Shock quarterfinal defeats for both in Sydney ensured the difference remained the same going into the Melbourne tournament which offers Becker a perfect chance to narrow the gap.

Becker, who played what he considers his best match ever against Mats Wilander in the Davis Cup final against Sweden last month, has been in superb form recently.

Advanced

But his Australian Open record is flawed. The 22-year-old has never advanced beyond the quarterfinals and was beaten by Swede Jonas Svensson in the last 16 last year.

Lendl, by comparison, showed his fitness places him above most other players by winning the event 12 months ago in furnace-like conditions at Flinders Park when the on-court temperature reached a roasting 61 degrees Centigrade.

Lendl opens his campaign against American doubles specialist Jim Pugh while Becker takes on Dutchman Paul Haarhuis, who beat John McEnroe in the 1989 US Open.

A repeat of that hot weather could see the tournament decided indoors.

If the temperature soars again, permission has been given for the sliding roof at the stadium to be closed to give players and spectators alike some relief.

That option will be considered only from the semifinals onwards, however, in the interests of fairness to those players toiling away on unprotected outside courts.

Both Lendl and Becker, of course, have the ability to turn up the heat on court regardless of the weather and it requires some imagination to look beyond the highly motivated pair contesting the final on January 28.

But the presence of 15 of the world's top 25 players ensures that neither of the top two seeds can take anything for granted and Stefan Edberg, in particular, will prove a threat.

Edberg, winner of the Australian Open in 1985 and 1987, is bound to be motivated by his tuckless exit from last year's tournament.

A back injury dramatically sustained in the final game of his last 16 match against Pat Cash forced him to pull out of his scheduled quarter-final with Austria's Thomas Muster and watch the closing stages in frustration from the stands.

There is also the lingering memory of his Wimbledon final defeat by Becker last July, not to mention his Davis Cup loss to the West German in last month's final.

Dangerous

McEnroe, Wilander, Czechoslovak Milosav Meir and Frenchman Yannick Noah, who beat Lendl in Sydney, remain dangerous opponents on their day.

The rumblings over the timing of the event — many players believe it comes too soon after the Christmas break — have been felt most keenly in the women's singles where world number one Steffi Graf will be an almost unbackable favourite.

Martina Navratilova and French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez are missing, leaving last year's beaten finalist Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia and Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini as the most awkward rivals to the superb West German.

Oilers' coach

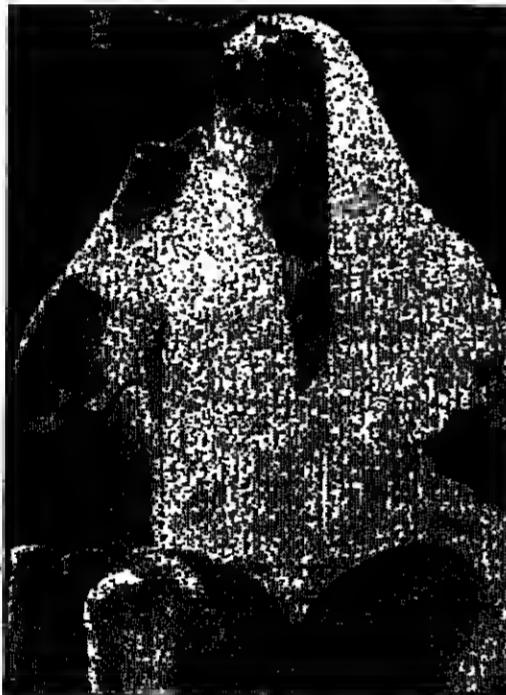
HOUSTON, Jan 12. (AP): Jack Pardee, who led Chicago and Washington to the National Football League playoffs and rebuilt the University of Houston programme, returned to the pros yesterday as head coach of the Houston Oilers.

Lendl, Becker upset

Noah, Steeb spring surprises



Yannick Noah



Becker drinks some ice water during a break. Right: Pat Cash (left) and his doubles partner Mark Kratzman smile after winning a point in their New South Wales Open match. They beat Paul Annacone and Christo van Rensburg 6-4 6-7 6-3. (Rauter wirephotos)



SYDNEY, Jan 12. (Reuter): Top seeds Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker crashed out of the New South Wales Open tennis tournament today as France's Yannick Noah and West German Carl-Uwe Steeb took it in turns to register shock victories.

Noah, his reported retirement plans apparently farfetched from his mind, was at his brilliant best as he brushed aside Lendl 6-1 6-4 after watching Steeb power to an equally impressive 7-6 6-3 win over his Davis Cup team mate Becker.

Noah, seeded eighth, will play American number three seed Aaron Krickstein in the semifinals tomorrow. Steeb's reward was a match against Sweden's Mats Wilander who recovered from a set down to beat qualifier Pete Sampras 6-7 5-6-0.

Noah's sparkling victory came the day after a French tennis magazine published an interview in which he said 1990 would be his final year on the circuit.

Serving powerfully, he gave

Lendl few chances to find a way back into the match in front of an entranced crowd.

"I have been working hard these last three weeks and I was feeling good," said Noah, currently ranked 21 in the world.

"I don't think he played as well as he usually plays but I really enjoyed the moment."

Lendl played down his reverse. "I'm not terribly concerned about it. He was very keen and today he deserved to win."

Becker's exit was equally rapid from the moment Steeb clinched the first set tie-break 7-3.

Looking both fitter and more

composed in the hot conditions than the Wimbledon and US Open champion, Steeb kept his nerve to register Becker's first defeat by a West German.

"He played a very good match and I wasn't able to pull it back after losing the first set," said Becker.

"I would have liked to do well but now I have the chance to have three days' rest before the Australian Open."

Steeb did not agree with suggestions that the defeat might adversely affect Becker's chances in Melbourne.

"Everyone knows Boris is tough in big events and I'm sure it won't affect him."

In the women's singles, Australians Barbara Paulus and Judith Wiesner will meet in tomorrow's semifinals after respective victories over Czechoslovak Radka Zrubakova and West German Claudia Porwik.

The other semifinal will be between Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union and American teenager Amy Frazier, who continued her no-nonsense progress through the draw by beating sevenib Raffaella Reggi of Italy 6-3 7-5.

Nashwan rated second best

LONDON, Jan 12. (Reuter): English Derby winner Nashwan, once spoken of as a potential raceroose of the century, has been officially rated only the second best in Europe in 1989.

In the annual international classifications, published yesterday, Nashwan is rated three pounds (1.3 kg) inferior to French and Irish Derby winner Old Vic.

And in a list of Epsom Derby winners rated since 1977, Nashwan (131) comes only ninth, nine pounds (4.1 kg) below the top-rated Sberger (140).

Nashwan, trained by Dick Hern, became the first horse in the same season to win the English 2,000 Guineas, Derby, Eclipse Stakes and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.

But he blotted his copy-book when only third in a warm-up race for the Prix del' Arc de Triomphe and never raced again.

Dispute

Senza, who lost his world title to him then McLaren team mate Prost after being disqualified in the Japanese Grand Prix in October, said through his Sao Paulo business office yesterday that he had not received any official communication from Fisa. A spokesman said he does not plan to comment on the dispute.

But earlier, Williams team boss Frank Williams slammed both Senza and Fisa for the dispute.

"When some people see a microphone they can't resist saying something controversial. It's all so unnecessary," Williams said.



Steeb raises his arms in jubilation after defeating Becker. (Reuter wirephoto)

Senna will race this season

LONDON, Jan 12. (Reuter): Former world champion Ayrton Senna will race this season, his McLaren team manager Ron Dennis promised yesterday.

The controversial Brazilian's future is in doubt following a threat by the sport's governing body to deny him a licence to compete in this season's Grands Prix unless he withdraws allegations that last year's world championship was manipulated.

But Dennis said: "I can assure you that he will be racing."

"I spoke to him for about two hours last night. But we are not quite sure of the circumstances between now and then. I think the least said the better."

Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa), said on

Wednesday that Senna would be barred from racing in 1990 unless he withdrew allegations that Fisa officials had favoured Frenchman Alain Prost to win the crown.

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Montana, Everett set for NFC title game



John Elway (No. 7) hasn't had an easy year

Wednesday passes with 29 and had his most important last week — a 30-yard bootup to Flipper Anderson to beat the New York Giants in overtime and send the Rams to candlestick for Sunday's game.

■ Bernie Kosar, John Elway and hard knocks. They just don't seem to go together. Until this year, when neither star quarterback had a particularly stellar year.

For Kosar, the problems have been mostly internal — injuries curtailed his effectiveness and turned him into an unpredictable passer.

"It's been a strange year," Kosar admitted as he and the Cleveland Browns prepared for Sunday's AFC championship game against Elway and the Denver Broncos. "There have been a lot of ups and downs for me and the team."

Mainly, there have been elbow, shoulder and finger problems. The elbow was the worst and, in midseason, it was reported that it was a career-threatening injury. That sent Browns coach Bud Carson rushing off to consult team doctors.

"It never was as bad as some people said," Kosar said. "It was bothersome but it wasn't anything like that."

"If you have Bernie he is, he won't ever say he's hurting," Carson said. "But we've discussed it with the doctors and they say he isn't in any career-threatening situation. He just has some different arm problems."

"When the time comes to

throw the ball, especially in a big game when we have to have it, Bernie comes through. We were much more concerned about him last week, health-wise than this week."

If Kosar was hurting last week, it certainly didn't show in Cleveland's 34-30 shootout with Buffalo. He connected on 20 of 29 passes for 235 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. He made all the right reads and all the right throws.

"He's probably the smartest quarterback I've ever been around," Carson said. "Bernie's a warrior and he'll be there on Sunday."

As will Elway, who hit one big play — a 37-yard TD pass to Vance Johnson — and took the Broncos on two long scoring drives in a 24-23 win over Pittsburgh.

■ Had the Broncos not come back against the Steelers, Elway might have considered this a lost year. It was his worst statistically since 1983, when he wasn't prepared for starting in the NFL, even though coach Dan Reeves gave him the job.

He even was booted at home and was the object of disaffection for comments he made about the pressure of playing in football mad Denver.

Still, the Broncos were 11-5, much better than last season's 8-8. They were the first team to clinch a division title.

But they did it with a newly aggressive defense, a running attack — thanks to rookie Bobby Humphrey — and without a lot of theatrics or heroics by Elway.



Norman breaks record

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 12. (Reuter): World number one Greg Norman broke fellow Australian Rodger Davis' day-old course record when he shot a 63 in the second round of the Palm Meadows Cup golf tournament today.

Norman's 15-under-par leading total of 129 put him one shot ahead of defending champion American Curtis Strange, who added a 64, the previous course record, to his first round 66.

One shot further back after returning a 67 was first round leader Davis.

Norman, who was followed by an adoring gallery, shot nine birdies and ended his round with an eagle. But wrong club selection resulted in a bogey at the 10th and the three-putted the 14th for another bogey.

"The scoring may never slow down," said Norman.

American Brad Brewer and Australian John Evans also made the most of perfect conditions and slow greens to shoot 64s.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Altket transferred

LONDON, Jan 12. (Reuter): Scottish soccer captain Roy Aitken was transferred from Scottish Premier Division Celtic to English Second Division Newcastle United on Wednesday for £500,000 (\$825,000).

Turner resigns

LONDON, Jan 12. (Reuter): Chris Turner, manager of English Fourth Division Cambridge United, resigned on Wednesday only 12 hours after his team had earned a glamour Football Association Cup fourth round tie against Millwall or Manchester City of the First Division.

Dutch club

AMSTERDAM, Jan 12. (Reuter): Dutch First Division club FC Den Haag has been ordered to play a league match behind closed doors after their fans hurled stones on to the pitch during a game last month.

Seven rookies

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Jan 12. (AP): Olle Nordin, coach of Sweden's World Cup-bound soccer team, picked seven rookies Wednesday for his squad that will play two exhibitions in Saudi Arabia next month.

Marlboro Cup

LOS ANGELES, Jan 12. (AP): Colombia will play the Soviet Union on Feb 20 in the Marlboro Cup of Los Angeles, which features three of the 24 teams that qualified for soccer's 1990 World Cup, Costa Rica, which qualified along with the United States in the North and Central America and Caribbean region, Mexico, in the second game of the doubleheader.

Cup build-up

LONDON, Jan 12. (Reuter): England will play Denmark at Wembley on May 15 as part of their build-up programme for the year's World Cup soccer finals in Italy.</

